

## Labour may seek new controls

The Labour Party is considering proposals for wide-ranging controls to give future Labour governments a "crucial lever" to influence company policies in private industry. A new authority would be formed, with influence in decision-making. Meanwhile, the TUC has called for a £3,400m inflationary Budget in March. Page 11

## Inquiry into UDR killing

The police started an inquiry after a UDR patrol shot dead a young Roman Catholic in Armagh. The soldiers said they believed a fact that he was armed, but no weapon was found. Page 2

## Pakistan press curbed again

Press censorship in Pakistan has again been tightened, two weeks after President Zia ul-Haq introduced a partial relaxation when he inaugurated his Advisory Council. Newspapers in Sind province have been forbidden to publish political news or views. Page 6

## Compromise on Belvoir

Ministers are expected soon to refuse to allow the National Coal Board to develop one of the three mines it wants to open in the Vale of Belvoir. A compromise has been reached after more than a year of internal government debate. Page 2

## Last effort at EEC pact

After six months of discussions, Foreign Ministers from the EEC meet in Brussels today for what must be the last attempt to agree guidelines for the reform of Europe's budget and agriculture policy. Page 5

## Europe to buy more Soviet gas

Disregarding United States warnings against increasing dependence on Soviet energy supplies, France and West Germany have agreed to buy large extra supplies of Siberian gas and other European countries seem likely to follow suit. Page 4

## Sinai resistance

Jewish religious zealots have escalated their campaign against Israeli withdrawal from occupied Sinai by moving an outpost of Sharm el Sheikh. The evacuation of the peninsula is, however, in full swing. Back page

## Left candidate

Mr Terry Fields, aged 44, a militant left-wing fireman has been selected as the prospective candidate to fight the Liverpool Kirkdale seat at the next general election. Page 2

## GP men banned

After Alain Prost, of France, won the South African Grand Prix in a Renault all but two of the 31 drivers in the race were suspended by the stewards. Page 19



## Australia trail

West Indies took a 2-0 lead over Australia in the best-of-five World Series Cup cricket finals with a 128-run win in Melbourne. Richards (above) was their top scorer with 60. Page 19

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The price of food is due to rise again in Poland; Ian Bradley reports from Warsaw on the likely outcome; Ian Bradley reports on the impending constituency boundary changes.

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# Spending curb threatens to cut police by 5,000

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Large cuts in police budgets are threatened in big provincial cities, which would undermine law and order, unless Government decisions on local government expenditure are changed. Police authority leaders say that the options facing them include closing some police stations and a reduction of manpower by up to 5,000 people in six key forces.

The warning came from the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents the Greater London Council, and the metropolitan councils of Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West and South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, and the West Midlands.

The association says that priority is being given to the Metropolitan Police in London, who will get money at their expense and leave them short, thus harming attempts to carry out Lord Scarman's recommendations on the police after the summer riots.

The forces expecting to be affected to a greater or lesser extent are in places with high black and Asian populations, including Merseyside, the West Midlands and Greater Manchester. Mr Edwin Shore, chairman of the West Midlands Police Authority, has warned Sir James Craze, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, of the consequences and Mr Shore is due to see Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary tomorrow.

He told me: "We will have to cut the police budget anyway, but if Mr Whitelaw cannot put pressure on Mr Heseltine it will be much worse."

In a statement by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Mr Roy Shaw, vice-chairman, forecast that the cuts in police strength will have to be made in the six metropolitan counties if the squeeze on them is not eased. The AMA said that the Metropolitan Police's share of national resources is to be increased from 26.6 per cent to 30.3 per cent in the settlement the Government is about to put before Parliament.

The Government therefore has increased the approved expenditure for the Metropolitan Police by no less than 24 per cent compared with an increase for other forces of a mere 3.4 per cent.

Mr Shaw is quoted as saying: "The Government decides the

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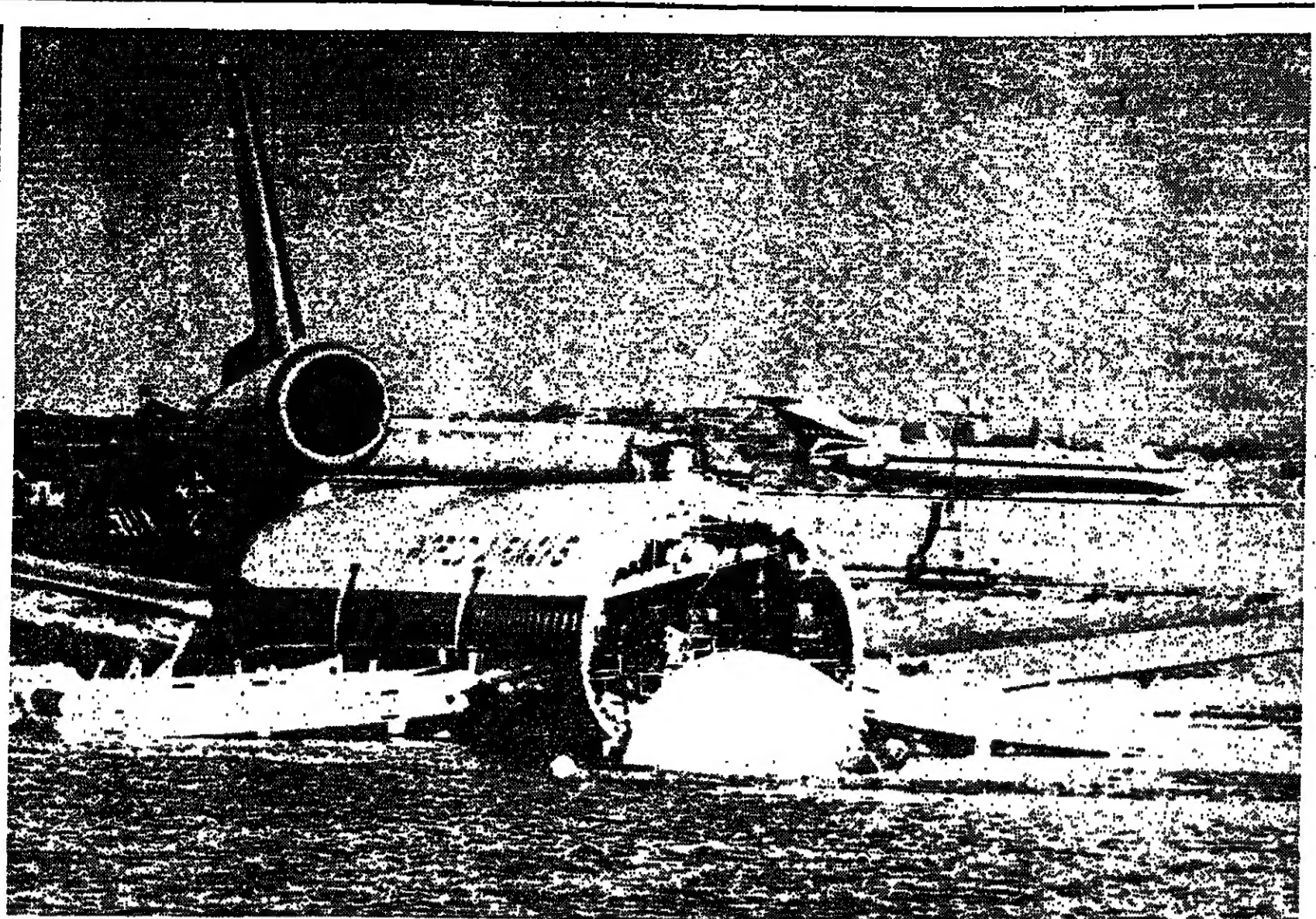
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End of Flight 30 from Honolulu: The stricken DC10 with its nose section sheared off lies in Boston harbour.

## DC10 skids into harbour and 208 survive

From Our Correspondent, New York, Jan 24

Officials of the American National Transportation Safety Board today began their investigation of the incident in which a DC10 airliner carrying 208 passengers and crew slid off the end of a runway at Boston's Logan Airport into the waters of Boston harbour.

Everyone in the aircraft survived the accident, and most escaped without injury. Of the 195 passengers and 12 crew, 31 were taken to hospital, and only four were admitted, suffering minor whiplash injuries.

The aircraft skidded off the end of Runway 15R, slid over a snow covered bank of rocks, and ended with its nose in the water.

The impact sheared the cockpit from the fuselage, but because the water was shallow due to low tide, there was little flooding in the aircraft and passengers were able to get out using inflatable escape chutes.

The investigators are looking at three possible causes: bad weather, equipment failure and pilot error.

Although the aircraft, World Airways Flight 30 from Honolulu, was attempting to land in freezing drizzle with one and a half miles visibility, the conditions were not bad enough to warrant closing the airport.

There were conflicting reports from both passengers and observers on the ground of the speed at which the aircraft landed and what happened after its wheels touched the ground.

Mr Nicholas Antrilli, of East Boston, was leaving the airport as Flight 30 was about to land. "The thing was coming in low and slow. There was

white exhaust coming out of the front engine," he said.

Another East Boston resident, Mr Bill Wilson, who watched the approach, commented: "I'm surprised it made the airport."

There was also confusion among the passengers. One woman passenger described the landing as normal. "Then we ran off the runway into the water, and the plane broke apart. I was in the seventh row and a wave came in and washed over us. We could see land. Everybody was pretty calm," she added.

But another passenger, Patricia Gilson, a United States Navy electrician stationed at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, said: "There was no change in the tempo of the plane's engines like there normally is when you land."

"We knew something was wrong because the plane wouldn't slow down."

A World Airways spokesman blamed ice on the runway for the accident. He said: "The information I have is that the plane taxied to the end of the runway, hit a patch of ice—due to bad weather conditions in Boston—skidded off the runway and a portion of the plane dropped into the water."

He added that this was the first incident of this kind that World Airways had been involved in.

A spokesman for the Massachusetts Port Authority, which is responsible for maintaining the runways at Logan airport, disputed the World Airways claim of ice on the runway.

"We feel the runway was in good condition," she said. "Another plane had landed on that runway only minutes before and had made a perfect landing with no trouble whatsoever."

"When the DC10 reached the end of the runway he was moving along pretty good. There was no way he was in a taxiing mode at that point."

She added that the air traffic controllers were in no way responsible for what happened. Their responsibility ended the second those wheels touched the ground," she said.

The transportation Safety Board officials were also investigating claims by several of the passengers that the aircraft's engines were still roaring even after it had settled in the water. Two such passengers were Mr David Drew and his wife Tammy, of New Hampshire, who said the engines were kicking up dirt into one of the doors as they tried to leave the aircraft.

"It was hitting me in the face," Mrs Drew said.

The investigation is expected to take several days, and much will depend on the aircraft's flight recorders.

World Airways Flight 30 had started in Honolulu and had made stops in San Francisco and Newark, New Jersey, before starting the final leg of its journey to Boston.

Shortly before 7.30 pm local time on Saturday, the aircraft was given final clearance to land on its designated runway, 15R, by air traffic control at Logan Airport.

At 7.35 it touched down on the runway. Just what happened between the time the wheels touched the ground and the aircraft ended up in the water, less than a minute later, and why, is not clear.

At first the stunned passengers could not believe they were still alive. "Everyone kind of looked round as if to say 'We're still here'," said Carolyn Savasta, of Massachusetts.

Then, it appears, there was a momentary panic as some passengers shouted: "Let me out, let me out."

It is estimated that 10 to 15 minutes elapsed before the passengers were able to leave in orderly fashion.

The evacuation of the aircraft and the ferrying of passengers to dry land took one hour, according to the Massachusetts Port Authority.

According to other passengers, however, the flight attendants gave contradictory orders because the destruction of the pilot's cabin prevented radio communications between them and the pilots (AFP reports).

Inside the passenger section, some of the passengers panicked. A few who had unbuckled their seat belts were hurried about when the airliner finally halted, while others hesitated to leave their seats, because the noise of the jets made them think the aircraft was still moving.

McDonnell Douglas called a meeting of airline operators 10 days ago, to discuss proposed changes in the DC10 wing slot. Last September a DC10 engine blew up during take-off at Miami, but the pilot managed to stop on the runway. An investigation was launched.

The worst air disaster in aviation history involved a DC10—all 346 on board a Turkish Airlines flight perished near Paris on March 3, 1974. It also holds the American record—273 died in Chicago in May, 1979, when an engine fell off.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Labour call for hospital deal terms

The Labour Party is to press the Government to disclose the full terms on which the Crown is to surrender part of the St George's Hospital site in London and redevelop it for offices in partnership with the Grosvenor Estate.

The Commons was told on Friday that the estate was to be allowed to buy back for £23,700 roughly one third of the 1.7 acre site at Hyde Park Corner which was acquired from them at that price in 1906. The Labour Party is estimated at tens of millions of pounds at the time of the proposed deal.

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Opposition spokesman for health and a member of the Labour Shadow Cabinet, said last night that she wanted to know the precise financial details of the proposed deal. "If there are millions involved then the House of Commons has to be fully involved in the benefits, and the costs", she said.

## Ripper hunt cost £4m overtime

The Yorkshire Ripper hunt cost £4m in overtime, the Yorkshire County Council has been told by a year during the inquiry, Mr John Gunnell, leader of the council, disclosed on Saturday.

He appealed for the council to consider the cost of the labour-controlled council, which is regarded as the country's third highest over-spender and for it to pay for the overtime.

## PC dies after cliff fall

Police Constable Mark White, aged 20, died yesterday after falling 100ft down cliffs in Devon, in spite of attempts by a student at Bath University to help him.

PC White, of Yeovil, Somerset, slipped when he went to help a fellow climber at Babacombe, near Torquay, Miss Carol Phillips, aged 23, a state registered nurse and a student at Bath University, climbed up to him and revived him with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but he died later.

## Fear of fuel bills 'killing the old'

Forty per cent of pensioners do not heat their bedrooms, and many spend less on heating their homes in winter than most families spend in summer, a report says today.

The survey, by the Electricity Consumers' Council, the industry's watchdog group, says many old people die from the cold through fear of big fuel bills. It calls for higher grants and pensions, and says greater efforts should be made to tell pensioners of their entitlement.

## Lifeboat fund to be closed

The Fenlee lifeboat disaster fund which now contains over £2.4m will be officially closed to further donations on February 15, its trustees announced yesterday.

They said they wanted to acknowledge the "generous and overwhelming response" of the public. The trustees will now start discussions with the families about the allocation of the money.

## Baked beans for the Princess

The Prince of Wales bought a 10p tin of baked beans and a mango for £1.50 at a school fair in Brixton, south London, on Saturday and told pupils: "The Princess, who is expecting a baby in June, looked well on her first public engagement since Christmas, after the morning sickness which forced her to cancel engagements."

## Freeze kills coupy

The severe weather has destroyed almost all the young of East Anglia's 15,000 to 20,000 coupy. The rodents escaped into the wild from the farms in the 1930s. Many thousands of the young have been found dead in recent weeks.

## Heathrow delays

Freezing fog disrupted Heathrow airport yesterday causing flight delays and diversions. At one time visibility was reduced to 100 yards.

## Inquiry after UDR patrol kills man in Armagh

From Richard Ford, Belfast

An investigation was started by the police yesterday a few hours after a young Roman Catholic man was shot dead by an Ulster Defence Regiment patrol in Armagh.

Detectives were also continuing their inquiries into the deaths of a father and son who were shot dead at their home in east Belfast early on Saturday.

The Armagh man, Mr Anthony Harker, aged 22, was shot dead by the patrol after he and another man ran from a supermarket and garage on Lower Irish Street early yesterday. Mr Harker had produced what the soldiers believed was a gun when he and another man were challenged for acting suspiciously near the buildings.

Two shots were fired and Mr Harker was killed. The other man ran off, but was caught later by the police. He was being interviewed last night.

The soldiers searched the area but found no weapon.

Mr Harker, an unemployed man with a son, was on bail

at the time of his death facing charges of making petrol bombs.

In Belfast, detectives were keeping an open mind on the motive for the murder of a father and son in the Protestant Willowfield area of the city.

Two gunmen burst into a semi-detached house at 2am on Saturday and shot dead Mr Robert Mitchell, aged 21, in the hall before running upstairs and killing his father, Robert, aged 45, with a burst of automatic gunfire as he lay in bed. Mr Mitchell was a member of the Ulster Defence Association.

The killers also shot dead one of the family's pet dogs before fleeing through the back garden.

Another son, Paul, aged 17, was in the living room when the gunmen struck and escaped by jumping over the body of his dead brother and running barefoot, shouting for help.

Neighbours heard the shots but were too frightened to open their doors.

The gunmen fled from the

scene in a white Transit van, which was found abandoned in the area later. It had been hired in Belfast four days ago and fitted with false number plates.

One theory is that the men were killed as part of a feud between rival loyalist groups, although there has been no evidence to support this.

Mr Owen Carron, Independent Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, who is in Alder prison, near Buffalo, in New York State, after being detained for trying to enter the United States illegally from Canada, said yesterday that he was a political prisoner (Reuters reports from New York).

Mr Carron and Mr Danny Morrison, described by officials as director of public relations for the IRA, have refused to wear prison uniform. In Court in Buffalo on Friday, they were charged with giving false statements while trying to enter the United States from Canada.



## Blast at dead man's home

A man who found his brother dead in a gas-filled room yesterday caused an explosion while trying to turn off the supply. The dead man, a detective, was facing a rape charge.

Fifteen other houses were damaged in the blast at Queen's Crescent, South Yorkshire, but Mr Alfred Hall, aged 44, escaped with burns to his arms and legs.

His brother, Det Constable George Hall, aged 37 and married with two children, had been suspended on full pay and was due to appear in court next month, accused of rape and assault.

## Communist scorn for the MI5 'mole'

By David Nicholson-Lord

Senior figures in the British Communist Party reacted with public outrage but private scorn yesterday to the claim that they had been infiltrated by an MI5 "mole" during the height of the 1950s Cold War.

The mole, Miss Betty Gordon, aged 54, was supposedly paid £1 a week by MI5 during a decade of undercover operations in which her work included accounts job at the London office of Soviet Weekly and a year as a live-in nanny at the household of Miss Betty Reid, a party administrator. Feelings of guilt have apparently prompted Miss Gordon to reveal her MI5 role.

Mr Reid's behaviour was outrageous and that he would be protesting in the strongest possible terms to the Home Office. Miss Reid described the episode as a fresh revelation of the unscrupulousness and callousness of the security services.

Privately, however, former leading figures in the party establishment were inclined to be dismissive. Neither Mr Bert Ramelson nor Mr Reuben Falber, former national industrial organiser and assistant secretary of the party respectively, had heard of Miss Gordon and pointed out that her access to any secret information was probably extremely limited.

Mr Falber, the party's national election agent during the 1950s, said he was mildly amused by the disclosure. "Every sensible person on the left, whether they are in the

## Third mine at Belvoir unlikely to go ahead

By Hugh Clayton

Environment Correspondent

Ministers are expected soon to refuse to let the National Coal Board develop one of the three mines it wants to open in the Vale of Belvoir to replace exhausted pits elsewhere in Leicestershire. The Government has decided to compromise after more than a year of debate since it received a report from Mr Michael Mann, QC, the inspector who conducted a public inquiry into the project.

The plan to create 4,000 jobs by opening three mines in the scenic vale has united the board and the National Union of Mineworkers, who are supported by the Department of Energy.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food opposes the project because of its impact on farmland. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, opposes it because of its symbolic importance as a victory for heavy industrial growth over conservation.

The Government wants to allow development at the southernmost Belvoir mine at Ashfordby, but intends to forbid the opening of pits at the other two sites. One is at the village of Rose, in the middle of the vale, and would have the largest output of the three. The other is further to the east at Salby.

Each side accepts that the argument has significance beyond the fate of attractive farmland in the vale. The outcome of the Belvoir case will be an important precedent in the struggle for possession of the landscape between conservation groups and the energy and raw material supply industries.

A partial government commitment to Belvoir would fall short of the National Coal Board's forecasts of coal demand once domestic supplies have begun to fall rapidly in the 1990s. But it would also be a defeat for farming and rural protection groups who fear that mining at Belvoir will make it harder to stop developments planned by the board in Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire.

## Ranges may kill Maplin airport idea

By Hugh Clayton

Opposition from the Armed Forces will probably destroy Maplin's chances of becoming the site for London's third airport. The Ministry of Defence has told the airport inquiry that the loss of experimental ranges near the airport site would represent a serious impairment to our defence capability.

The ministry owns 8,000 acres of Essex coast land near the site which would be reclaimed if an airport was built at Maplin. The land houses four experimental units, including the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Shoeburyness which conducts essential trials of munitions for the three Armed Forces.

Some of the facilities at Maplin sands have no parallel in Britain. For instance, it is the only place where experimental shells can be fired over water watched during the whole of their trajectory and recovered intact at low tide, the written evidence said.

The area includes a range for testing of the non-nuclear parts of nuclear weapons and provides a centre of expertise which is vital to their development.

When Maplin was chosen for the site of the third airport in the early 1970s, the services were urged to find other areas of coastline for experimental firing. The ministry told the inquiry that alternatives examined then have been taken over by other defence establishments.

"It would be impossible to relocate the facilities of Proof and Experimental Establishment at Shoeburyness, without serious detriment to defence functions and serious environmental problems."

The ministry has no objection, however, to the expansion of Stansted, even to the extent of the larger South-East Region which the EEC Commission has decided has a "low relative intensity of regional problems".

Overseas selling prices for the UKAEA are as follows: Australia \$1.10, Canada \$1.10, Germany \$1.10, France \$1.10, Italy \$1.10, Japan \$1.10, South Africa \$1.10, Sweden \$1.10, Switzerland \$1.10, USA \$1.10, West Germany \$1.10, Yugoslavia \$1.10.

## Science report

## Siberian crane born in captivity

By Tony Sansteg

The first Siberian crane, one of the world's rarest birds, has been born in captivity. It was hatched last year after artificial insemination of an adult female named Hiranaka, at the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

There are thought to be fewer than 300 Siberian cranes left in the wild. The species is particularly at risk because the birds migrate routes from breeding grounds in Siberia to wintering quarters in India and China across Afghanistan and Iran, where the birds often fall victim to minefields and trigger-happy militiamen and insurgents taking advantage of conditions in which the enforcement of wildlife protection laws is impossible.

Dr George Archibald, director of the International Crane Foundation, reports an ingenious use of incubation equipment combined with surrogate parents—in this case, four pairs of sandhill cranes—to encourage the hatching of a chick, which was named Dushenka despite uncertainty as to its sex (Siberian crane eggs are removed from the parents to induce the female to continue laying).

Hiranaka laid ten eggs, only three of which proved to be fertile. The eggs were immediately removed from the nest and placed under the sandhill pairs. Dr Archibald writes, "or in the incubator when all foster parents were engaged."

The incubator, the natural state simulated as closely as possible, including... cooling periods in a refrigerator to approximate the time when the adult in nature would be absent from the nest; this cooling period could stimulate the embryo to increased activity and therefore strengthen it.

"In addition, adult unseen calls were played to the egg on a tape recorder during its alternate day weighing. Observers noted a marked movement from within the mature eggs during these calls."

Of the two other fertile eggs, one hatched, but died of a massive E. coli infection after 12 hours and one died in the nest just after August. Dushenka, fully fledged and weighing just over 12lb, had made its first flight.

Dr Archibald hopes that the Baraboo population of captive cranes will ultimately "provide the nucleus of a reintroduced wild population."

Source: World Wildlife Fund Monthly Report, November, 1981. Project 1711: Siberian crane. Hiranaka, 11-13 Oakford Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1QU.

## CORNWALL FEARS EEC CUTS

From Craig Seton, Exeter

Cornwall and large parts of Devon which are regarded by the Government as being in need of special assistance, face losing millions of pounds in EEC aid unless a proposal by the European Commission is changed.

Tomorrow a delegation from Devon and Cornwall County Councils and the South-West Water Authority will meet South West MPs and European MPs at Westminster as part of a campaign to have the proposed EEC regulation altered.

All of Cornwall, Plymouth and north and west Devon, which have been given areas status by the British Government, would, under the new criteria proposed for the EEC's regional development fund, be regarded in future as part of the larger South-West Region which the EEC Commission has decided has a "low relative intensity of regional problems".

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## Labour group vetoes truce on candidates

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The fragile nature of the truce between left and right within the Labour Party, arranged earlier this month at the Bishop's Stortford conference of party and trade union leaders has been exposed with the rejection by the Labour Party of a truce between the party's National executive committee.

The NEC, which is due to meet on Wednesday, will be told that the local government committee of the divided South-west party, in south London, will not reverse its ban on eight senior Labour members of the council, including Mr John O'Grady, the present leader.

The eight, all of whom hold chairmanships or vice-chairmanships, have been kept in the panel of candidates for the London borough elections in May by the left majority in the party. That means that they will be unable to seek re-election.

Last month, after bitter complaints from the right, including one of the three local MPs, Mr Robert Mellish (Bermondsey), the NEC decided to freeze the selection process and hold an inquiry. Last week the NEC's representatives, Mr O'Grady, in south London, Mr David Hughes, the national agent, and representatives of the South-west party to offer a deal.

If Mr O'Grady and his seven colleagues were put back on the panel, the consultants suggested, the NEC would see to it that the whip was restored to 11 far left members who had been denied it since last May.

Mr Heffer, who, like Mr Michael Foot, regards himself as a pacemaker and a most reasonable man, has helped to bring about similar reconciliation.

Mr Heffer, the former party chairman, who resigned recently, said he was not surprised at Mr Field's selection.

## Alliance agrees to heal rift and allocate seats

By Our Political Editor

The Liberals and Social Democrats are expected to agree tomorrow, when their negotiating teams meet, to re-double their efforts to get the agreement on the sharing out of parliamentary seats.

The move follows the unilateral ban on fresh negotiations imposed two weeks ago by Mr William Rodgers of the SDP.

Informal contacts between the two sides yesterday, after an impatient meeting of the SDP executive on Saturday, indicated that both parties have drawn the same lesson from last week's Gallup Poll in *The Daily Telegraph*.

That showed that following the public quarrelling between prominent members of the two parties at the beginning of this month, support for the two parties together fell by one fifth, from 504 per cent in December to 391 per cent. The SDP alone fared worse, falling from 35 per cent to 26 per cent, while Liberal support fell from 141 per cent to 13 per cent.

Much irritation at the unilateral action by Mr Rodgers was expressed in the Liberal

## Nuclear waste conflict

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A fundamental misunderstanding has arisen between the nuclear energy industry and the Government about the disposal of long-lived radioactive waste from atomic power stations.

The conflict lies behind the decision of the Department of the Environment to cancel the drilling of boreholes to explore for suitable sites to dump glass blocks containing the most active waste products, which are at present stored in liquid form in double-lined stainless steel tanks at Windscale, Cumbria.

The type of high-temperature glass being considered by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and British Nuclear Fuels is suitable for the job as a subject of scientific controversy. Although the process of

glass-making has been perfected by the UKAEA and by the French Atomic Energy Commission, they use different types of glass and different methods for filling the glass blocks.

Plans for a British vitrification plant are at the design stage, and British Nuclear Fuels confirmed yesterday it is committed to complete building by the end of the decade.

However, a postponement of the scheme for disposing waste in underground sites has arisen because of uncertainty about the stability of glass, which has been voiced most recently in *Nature* by a UKAEA team at Harwell.

Disputes arise about the rate at which the glass may develop cracks at high temperatures underground, thus allowing seepage into the surrounding soil.

## Rates analysis 'justifies Labour'

By David Walker

"The figures undermine the case by which the Government has sought to justify the powers which it is taking under the Local Government Finance Bill now before Parliament," he said.

Mr Straw's figures do not tell the whole story. All the counties now in Labour control, except Durham, were Conservative until May last year. The rates were set before the Labour Party came to power. Mr Straw said that even the supplementary rates levied by incoming Labour councillors in several areas, those shire counties looked relatively frugal.

The rates burden appears heavier in the South of England than in the North. That is probably explained as much by the relative rateable values as by the collective parsimony of people in such counties as Yorkshire.

A table of weekly payments showed that rates in the 13 shire counties controlled by Labour averaged £3.77, which was 74p a week lower than in the 24 comparable Conservative counties.

Average weekly household rates week (£)	
Inner London	8.58
Outer London	8.08
North Yorkshire	5.84
West Yorkshire	5.80
Essex	5.78
East Sussex	5.01
West Sussex	4.89
Cheshire	4.79
Cleveland	4.73
Hampshire	4.65
Tyne & Wear	4.58
Greater Manchester	4.48
Cambridgeshire	4.43
South Yorkshire	4.42
Suffolk	4.12
Kent	3.91
Lancashire	3.50
Devon	3.47
Cumbria	3.38
West Yorkshire	3.18
Cornwall	2.99

The figures include payments for supplementary rates; no adjustment has been made to the London figures for any payments made as a result of the Law Lords' decision in the Greater London Council-finance case.

## BL Cars beats recession.

A drop of nearly 24% in total UK sales suggests that 1981 was not a successful year for the British car industry.

Except for BL Cars, Against the trend, BL Cars not only increased market share but actually sold more cars than the year before!

The improvement in the company's fortunes has been by no means unexpected. Metro and Acclaim, spearheading its product-led recovery.

In key export markets, too, BL Cars is winning business with Metro in Italy and France and major sales increases of Jaguar in N. America.

BL Fighting back

مركز الأصيل



Science report  
Siberian  
crane  
born in  
captive

By Tony Samways  
The first Siberian crane to be born in captivity has been hatched at the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin. The bird, named Hiraaka, was hatched on January 15. It is the first of a new generation of cranes to be born in captivity. The foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cranes. It has been successful in breeding several species of cranes, including the Siberian crane, the whooping crane, and the American belted kingfisher. The foundation's work is supported by donations from individuals and organizations. The foundation's goal is to ensure the survival of these endangered species.

## The police and the people

# Concern over complaints reform

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Members of the Government's Police Advisory Board are expected to object to details of Home Office proposals to reform, through use of an independent "assessor", the system of handling complaints against police when they meet in private tomorrow.

As first disclosed in *The Times* on Friday, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, wants conciliation machinery for minor complaints and a greater independent check on the way the police handle serious complaints. A Bill will be presented to Parliament in the autumn.

The proposals please neither the Police Federation representatives on the board nor local police authority chiefs. The leaking of government plans for a Bill and the circulation of Home Office thinking is being seen in informed quarters as an attempt to scotch police opposition and ideas from the board's own working party. The Home Office proposals are short of Lord Scarman's recommendations in his Brixton riot report, although ministers insist they are backing him.

Lord Scarman said that nothing short of an indepen-

dent investigation system, available for all complaints except the frivolous, would win public confidence. He added that if that system was not accepted, an independent assessor should be "treated as a member of the investigating team" in the case of serious complaints. Information reaching the board indicates that is not what the Home Office has in mind.

It questions whether there is sufficient public concern to warrant the creation of a separate complaints investigation agency, which, it claims, would erode the chief constable's responsibility for the discipline and control of his force.

Instead, it thinks there should be an "assessor" (not a "supervisor" as Lord Scarman called him) as an independent check on the investigation of serious complaints. He would not automatically be involved in all serious complaints, for example of corruption, of assault by police causing bruising or superficial lacerations, or of "newspaper for the purpose" have also been considered.

The assessor's involvement would be mandatory only if the complaint was that police

caused death or serious injury, such as fracture, damage to internal organs, impairment of bodily function, deep cut or laceration.

But even then the reference to the independent assessor would be mandatory only if the deputy chief constable accepted that the death or injury could have been caused in the way alleged.

The Home Secretary would have power of intervention as a "long stop", however.

If the assessor was involved, he should be able, if necessary, to make "reasonable" directions to ensure that the investigation was done "expeditiously, thoroughly and impartially". When the assessor was satisfied with the conduct of the investigation, the deputy chief constable would send the report to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The DPP is one of the possible choices for the job of assessor. The chairman of the Police Complaints Board (or his deputy) — Lord Scarman's suggestion — and a "new appointment for the purpose" have also been considered.

Lord Scarman said that if a system of independent investigation was not acceptable,

"deputy chief constables should be placed under an obligation to appoint an officer from another force to investigate all matters of a serious nature rather than having discretion in the matter", but the Home Office would give discretion to appoint an outside officer to the assessor in those cases he was able to consider, or to the deputy chief constable.

Home Office thinking on the extent of police involvement in the processing of complaints falls short of Lord Scarman's recommendations, which said that it should be possible for complaints to be lodged not only at a police station, but also with a police authority, a local committee or liaison committee, or Citizens' Advice Bureau which would pass the complaint to the police.

The idea was clearly to overcome disgruntled people might have about going direct to the police. Some complainants have accused police of trying to persuade them not to go ahead.

But the Home Office thinks the chief constable (in practice, his deputy) should continue to be the receiving point for complaining against members of his force.

## TV search for understanding

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Ten years ago Reading Police station was a grimy, red-brick building with a door which no amount of late-Victorian architectural fiddlers could diminish. Local reporters seeking news were often met with the barest details. Questions could elicit a brusque "not going to tell you".

For the few weeks viewers of BBC Television's *Police* series have been watching a very different view of Reading Police station. In the 1980s it is a fine concrete and glass building and for nine months camera and microphone were allowed to investigate its nooks and crannies with little impediment.

Viewers have already seen armed officers conducting a siege, watched a fearful detective constable demoted to uniform duties and last week set on the shoulders of officers interrogating a woman alleging rape. Tonight they will see the police in action at a pop festival and, in future episodes, handling a death in custody, interviewing a suspected burglar, staking out a

duchess's house where thieves are expected and keeping blacks and skinheads apart.

For reporters reared on the likes of the old Reading police station and viewers used to the muscular exploits of the Sweeney the series is a revelation.

It was born in 1979 when Mr Roger Graef, an ex-BBC news anchor and a former New Yorker with a reputation for innovative television documentary, went to the Association of Chief Police Officers with the idea. He and Charles Stewart, cameraman and co-producer, had made a series of cinema vérité films examining institutions and human relationships. Could the same be done for the police? The association thought it could.

Mr Graef explained his methods: "We are trying to deal with issues which are alive in the current debate about policing but in an evidential form. For example, arming the police. You want to argue about firearms; here is an example."

"There are endless discussions in the abstract

about the future of the coal industry, the Communist Party, parliamentary democracy... but what we are trying to do is say these are the people you are debating about in action."

Thames Valley, which covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, was chosen after the nine-month BBC team investigated seven other forces, including the Metropolitan Police. Some were not suitable and others would not give the BBC everything it might want. The ground rules were a guarantee of editorial freedom, except where professional secrets involved, or the personal lives of the officers were revealed.

The BBC team felt that in Thames Valley they had a senior officer and a chief constable, Mr Peter Imbert, who understood what they wanted and was a "philosophical mix which suited the film."

The force was told the sort of subjects the filmmakers were interested in, but no incident was created for them. The siege, on the

last day of shooting, was one occasion when a policeman told Mr Stewart to stop filming. The cameraman refused and continued working unhindered. He feels he achieved a considerable empathy with the policemen involved, building up a widening rapport.

"Most detectives thought they would not let us film," Mr Stewart said, "but after the first officer said: 'I did not find that difficult at all'."

Both Mr Graef and Mr Stewart admit that they tended to choose particular policemen to follow.

It remains to be seen whether *Police* marks the high water mark of the open-door policy. Among those who previewed the series was the Police Federation, which has often been critical of the press and television coverage.

The federation's magazine says: "On balance *Police* is more likely to help than harm the public's esteem... at a time when the service is under the microscope *Police* gets nearer to the truth."



Nurses shouting to make their point heard during a pay campaign rally in Trafalgar Square yesterday. Speakers, including several MPs, supported the nurses' claim for £100-a-week minimum for women with three years' training.

## Clerks defend JPs' justice

By Marcel Berlins, Legal Correspondent

More than 10,000 criminal cases a year now being tried by juries in the Crown Court should be heard in magistrates' courts instead, the Justices' Clerks' Society urged in a report published yesterday.

The theme of the report is that the virtues of trial by jury have been exaggerated and that justice in the magistrates' courts is swifter, far cheaper, more efficient and fairer.

It also produces statistics, based on an admittedly narrow range of offences, showing that, in comparable cases, the Crown Court is five times more likely to impose a sentence of imprisonment than a magistrates' court, and that any sentence it does pass will be nearly three times as long.

The society, which represents the 350 lawyers who administer the magistrates' courts and act as legal advisers to the lay justices, calls for a review of the distribution of criminal work between the crown and the magistrates' courts.

In particular, it calls for a fundamental re-examination of the unfettered right to choose trial by jury given to defendants for offences that can be tried in either court.

The discretion whether a

defendant should be entitled to a jury trial in those cases should be left to the magistrates, after hearing representations from the prosecution and defence, the society argues. There would be a right of appeal against a refusal by justices to allow a jury trial.

The report points out that 57 per cent of offenders sentenced in the Crown Court for offences that could have been tried at the lower level receive sentences that could have been passed by the magistrates.

The justices' clerks say that a defendant's desire to be tried by jury was often prompted by the advice of unqualified friends or based on misguided or ill founded beliefs, for instance, that there was a better chance of acquittal.

Moreover, "as a nation we have been conditioned over the years to a fond belief and a certain confidence in the ability of jury — any jury — to bring in a just verdict". That confidence, the justices' clerks argue, is misplaced.

In practice, magistrates' courts offered a superior mode of trial to a jury, they say. "The constant improvement in the standard of justice administered by the

magistrates' courts, with the extensive review and appeal procedures available there from to all parties provided far greater safeguards than the single appeal from the Crown Court."

"There can be no doubt that magistrates' courts are easily the most cost-effective system of justice in the country", the report adds. It says that the total revenue from fines and fees paid in magistrates' courts (which deal with 97 per cent of all criminal cases) exceeds the cost of the service provided. By contrast, the cost of the remaining 3 per cent of criminal cases, albeit the most serious ones, was £50m. The cost of legal aid to defendants in magistrates' courts was £30m, whereas the far smaller number of cases in the Crown Court cost £32m in legal aid.

The justices' clerks claim that the magistrates' courts could easily absorb the additional workload that would be placed on them by the transfer of 20 per cent of Crown Court cases, especially if, as has been recommended by an inter-departmental review last year, more motoring offences were to become subject to fixed penalties and removed from the courts.

## Yard under pressure over injured student

By Lucy Hodges

Scotland Yard said yesterday that if new evidence is produced it will review the case of a Nigerian student, who says he was kicked so badly by police officers in Brixton, South London, that one of his testicles had to be removed.

Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer of the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCCL), called on the police to reopen the case, which, she said, highlighted the unsatisfactory methods of investigating complaints against the police.

This week the NCCCL will be drawing the attention of the House of Commons home affairs committee, which is examining reform of the police complaints system, to the details of the alleged assault on the student.

The man has been awarded £1,500 by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and received a further £4,000 (as well as £1,000 for legal costs) last November from the Metropolitan Police in an out-of-court settlement.

The compensation board, whose chairman Mr Michael Ogden, QC, presided over a private hearing into the Nigerian's case in 1980, concluded that the man was assaulted by officers.

Despite the board's finding, no police officer has been punished. The matter was investigated internally by the police who concluded that he had been assaulted by officers but no individual could be identified.

The papers were sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions but he decided to take no action because the police officers could not be traced.

It was not until the case was reopened by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board at the Nigerian's request that discrepancies emerged between police evidence given to the magistrates (who dismissed a charge of drunk and disorderly conduct against the Nigerian) and that given to the internal police inquiry and to the board.

The man said he was a passenger asleep in a car when he was picked up by the police. Two of several officers involved in the arrest, Police Constables Brian Spreadbury and Steven Clements, testified first that he was limp when they encountered him; later they told the internal police inquiry that the man struggled; finally they told the compensation board that they had lost their notebooks.

## BA opposes Bethell's air fares campaign

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

An embarrassing conflict over Lord Bethell's campaign for cheaper European air fares has arisen between the British Government, which supports it, and British Airways, which opposes it.

Lord Bethell, who is expecting his case against price-fixing by European airlines to be heard in Luxembourg in April, described the conflict as bizarre.

"British Airways always claim they are in favour of lower European air fares yet they have joined the European monopoly state carriers in opposing my case," he said. "They are also opposing the British Government, which supports my case and which also financially supports British Airways."

After first denying that it opposed Lord Bethell's campaign, British Airways later admitted that along with other airlines, including British Caledonian, it was asking for the right to intervene in the case.

"We agree with Lord Bethell's aim of cheaper fares; but we disagree with his means," a spokesman said. "We do not think the competition rules of the Treaty of Rome can be applied to air transport without a common air transport policy by the member states, which does not exist."

"Without that the competition rules would be inconsistent with existing agree-



Lord Bethell: More forceful measures needed, he says, to bring about a coordinated international aviation system.

## King Haakon burns the midnight oil

From Jonathan Wills, Lerwick

There will be little work done in Lerwick on Wednesday for the good reason that most of the Shetland capital's inhabitants will only just be going to bed when most of us are going to work.

Tomorrow is Up Helly A', the day (and night) when Lerwick's 8,000 people put on Britain's most spectacular fire festival.

The few visitors who brave the North Atlantic weather will see 800 "guizers" in fancy dress, parading through Lerwick's grey and windy streets with blazing torches and flags and yule holly, and doing a Viking war galley, reducing months of craftsmanship to ashes in a sacrifice that will ensure that the sun really does return to warm these bleak islands.

In Shetland at this time of year it is sometimes hard to believe that it will return, but if Up Helly A' goes to plan there will be no night at all in June and July.

King Haakon of Norway sailed to Shetland in July, 1263, with a fleet of nearly 200 war galleys. He anchored in Bressay Sound, now the bustling port of Lerwick and a focus for the North Sea oil industry. He was on his way to fight the battle of Largs, which both Scots and Norwegians have claimed as a victory ever since.

Tomorrow night King Haakon will live again, in the person of this year's "Guizer Jarl", the chief of the fire festival and lord of Lerwick for a day and a night in place of the Government and the Shetland Islands Council.

These days the Viking path is a hard road to travel. Sacking, pillaging and looting are not what they were and most Lerwegians keep body and soul on speaking terms by means of more prosaic employments.

Take the case of Mr Kenny Crossan, this year's Guizer Jarl. When not playing the part of his Nordic Majesty, King Haakon of Norway, Mr Crossan runs a successful business on the Lerwick waterfront.

Crossan Oils is Esso's local distributor and does a nice line in selling the products of the North Sea oil fields.

Mr Crossan did not get where he is today without knowing a thing or two about the right grade of paraffin oil to keep the Up Helly A' torches burning. To be a guizer jarl you have to serve for 15 years on the Up Helly A' Committee.

Unlike King Haakon's ill-fated expedition to the Costa Clyde, the Lerwick Festival is extremely well organised. This has been the case for 100 years, since the days when the unruly working class mobs of Lerwick celebrated Up Helly A' (literally, the end of the yule holly) by burning the bodies of criminals, thus culminating in dragging a sledge bearing a blazing tar barrel through the town.

When you take this Viking business seriously, as all grown men in Lerwick are expected to do, you find that there are only a few months in summer when the festival does not occupy your spare time.

In autumn the work begins on building the galley, for which only the best materials and shipwrights will do; then the 800 torches have to be made, following a secret formula.

The Lerwick brass band has to practise the stirring Up Helly A' anthems (whose origins, it must be said, are Victorian rather than Viking); each of the 49 squads of "guizers" must meet in secret to decide which local incident of the year is worthy to be pilloried in their satirical sketch and the guizers have to make their own fancy dress, at an average cost of £40, or up to £400 if you are one of the Vikings surrounding the Jarl himself.

And it does not stop there. In the months that follow this night of fire, each squad has to hold its own private dance to renew pillaging treaties, discuss the untoward events of the big night, and lay plans for next year's revelries.

Tomorrow, however, all the labour will be worth it, as the guizers make their way round the 13 halls open for merriment, dancing, and free food and drink all night.

At a conservative estimate, more than £10,000 worth of beer and spirits will be available for the guizers and other guests in the halls.

Despite the abundance of refreshment, serious drunkenness is not all that common on Up Helly A' night: the pace is too brisk.

Woe betide the guizer who falls out of line or the squad which arrives at a hall in the wrong order. For really serious misdemeanours such as taking the "mickie-taking" of the Jarl too far, you can be banned altogether, as one squad found out last year when it paraded in what the Jarl and his Vikings took to be a cheap imitation of their own extravagantly expensive costumes.

## ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

ECOWAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

### INVITATION TO TENDER

The Executive Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States invites to international Tender under its integrated telecommunication programme:

1 — SUBJECT: This invitation to tender is for the supply, installation and Commission of equipment for fourteen microwave links, five local automatic exchanges and four international telephone transit exchanges.

2 — Description of works: Tender documents consist of six volumes: Vol I: general conditions of tender and contract Vol II: technical specifications for transmission systems Vol III: technical specifications for telephone exchanges facilities Vol IV: technical specifications for outside plant facilities Vol V: technical specifications for buildings and access road facilities Vol VI: technical specifications for power supply system.

3 — Funding sources: Facilities to be provided under this invitation to tender are to be financed by ECOWAS Fund for Cooperation, Compensation and Development, European Development Fund (EDF), European Investment Bank, Italian Government and by purchaser credits.

4 — Participation: (a) Contracting firms from the European Economic Community and from ACP shall tender for the following:

- Lot No 3: Transmission facilities for Ouagadougou-Bolgatanga route
- Lot No 4: Transmission facilities for Fada N'Gourma-Porgaroute

- Lot No 6: Transmission facilities for Bissau-Ziguinchor and Bissau-Koundara routes
- Lot No 7: Transmission facilities for Koundara-Mali route
- Lot No 9: Transmission facilities for Korioko-Sikasso route
- Lot No 20: International transit centre (CTI) for Praia
- Lot No 21: International transit centre (CTI) for Bissau
- Lot No 22: International and national transit centres and local exchange for Banjul.

(b) The invitation to Tender is opened to all contracting firms for the other Lot Nos.

5 — Acquisition of the Documents: Documents may be obtainable on payment of US\$200.00 per set of documents, from the following address:

ECOWAS Executive Secretariat  
6 King George V Road  
Lagos  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

The payment must be made by bank order in favour of Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS.

6 — Closing of Tender and opening of the Bids: Tenders should be sent to ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, 6 King George V Road, Lagos, Nigeria, to arrive at the latest by 30th April 1982 at 1100 hours GMT.

The Tenders will be opened in public on 1st May 1982 in Cotonou, People's Republic of Benin.

7 — Extra information: For any extra information, please contact the Executive Secretariat in Lagos, 6 King George V Road, Lagos, Nigeria  
PMB 12745  
Telephone: 636841  
Telex: 22633 NG ECOWAS

## Fewer plane crash deaths

By Our Transport Correspondent

Air travel was safer last year than in the two preceding years, according to an analysis by *Flight* magazine. The number of deaths in air crashes was 170 compared with 1,144 in 1980 and 1,267 in 1979. Almost all fatalities involved third world operators, mostly Latin or South American second-line carriers.

Eastern European countries had a poor record, with the worst accident of the year, 178 killed when a Yugoslav charter aircraft crashed into a mountain in daylight cloud in Corsica in December.

Russia's Aeroflot was also involved in a serious accident when about seventy people were killed on takeoff near Leningrad in February. The exact number is not known but *Flight* says, "because of usual there is no information on what actually happened to Aeroflot, the world's biggest airline."

The six worst accidents in 1981, in terms of numbers killed, were:

Jugoslav Inex Adria, DC9 hit high ground in cloud on charter flight to Ajaccio, December, 178 killed.

Far Eastern Air Transport, Boeing 737 fell apart in air, Taipei, August, 110 killed.

Aeroflot, TU 134 crashed on takeoff, Leningrad, February, 70 killed.

Aeromexico, DC9 crashed landed in storm, Chihuahua, July, 50 killed.

Colombian local airline, Viscount hit Andes at 11,000 ft, August, 50 killed.

Somali Airlines, F 27 crashed and caught fire, Mogadishu, July, 49 killed.

No wide-bodied jets crashed and the trend was encouraging, at any rate in the United States, Europe, the Middle and Far East, and Australasia, *Flight* says. "Evidence suggests so far that whatever economies the carriers are making to cope with two successive years of massive financial losses, they are not in areas affecting safety."

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## Concessions to West ruled out by Moscow

From David Blow, Vienna, Jan 24

One of President Brezhnev's top foreign policy advisers has said that the Soviet Union will not be forced into making any concessions to the West because of the liabilities it has had to meet in Poland.

Mr Vadim Zagladin, deputy head of the Soviet Communist Party's foreign affairs department, delivered a strong warning to Western politicians in an interview broadcast on Hungarian radio yesterday.

"Those in the West who think we will show compliance on the issue of missiles or any other question, because we have to support Poland, make a great mistake. The Soviet Union has never shown compliance on principal issues and will not do so now."

Mr Zagladin described the impact of American sanctions as "of minor importance." He pointed out that the Soviet trade with the United States was small compared with that with other states, and added that "a great part of it is the importation of cereals, which has not been frozen by the embargo."

However, Mr Zagladin went on to say that the Soviet Union would take counter-measures in the long-term. These would involve a drive towards self-sufficiency by the Soviet Union and its

allies so as to avoid economic dependence on the West. "We are going to produce everything that is necessary for our unaided and by the development of relations and co-operation with the socialist countries," he said.

This is similar to the line taken by the Polish Government. Yesterday the official Polish News agency PAP quoted Mr Zbigniew Mazowiecki, the Deputy Prime Minister as saying that Polish industry would have to switch "to the maximum utilization of domestic resources" while foreign trade would "have to provide new sources of raw materials to replace the present unreliable ones."

There is no doubt that all the Eastern block countries are deeply concerned now at their vulnerability as a result of their growing dependence on Western finance and Western imports. This is likely to lead, as Mr Zagladin indicated, to a partial return to the principles of economic autarky within Comecon and a more cautious approach to future economic links with the West.

□ Washington. — Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, left for Geneva today to meet Mr Andrzej Gajdar, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in the first high-level talks since martial law was declared in Poland. — Reuters.



## Wajda signs petition against martial law

By Our Foreign Staff

Polish intellectuals have made a concerted appeal to end martial law on the eve of General Jaruzelski's address to the Sejm parliament today. A petition to parliament, signed by 130 academics and intellectuals, urges the authorities to halt "confrontation with their own

The petition speaks of an attempt to enslave Polish society, and protests against "brutal strike-breaking by the army and police, against shootings and beatings, against the internment of thousands..."

Among the signatories is Andrzej Wajda, director of the prize-winning films *Man*

of *Marble* and *Man of Iron*, which chronicled the birth of Solidarity, and were recently screened on British television.

In Vienna, Mr Rakowski, the Polish Deputy Prime Minister, was quoted as saying that there were continuing contacts between the

authorities and Mr Lech Walesa, the detained Solidarity leader. He gave no further details, merely stating in an interview with Polish radio that there was no clear answer yet to the problems of Poland's trade unions. A diversity of trade unions was needed in Poland, he said.

US wishes ignored

## Europeans to take more Siberian gas

By Our Foreign Staff

Disregarding United States warnings against increasing its dependence on Soviet energy supplies, France this weekend became the second European country to sign a large gas deal with the Soviet Union.

France is to buy 8 billion cubic metres of Siberian gas each year from 1984 for a period of 25 years, in addition to the 4 billion cubic metres a year of Soviet gas it already receives.

West Germany, which already receives 10 billion cubic metres of Soviet gas, has also committed itself to buying another 10.5 billion.

The Italians, who already receive 6 billion cubic metres of gas from the Soviet Union, reached a preliminary agreement in October to buy another 7 billion or 8 billion. They were due to finalize their agreement last week, but announced that in view of the Polish situation negotiations would be temporarily suspended. Yet it now emerges that the Russian Soyuz Gas export delegation is staying in Paris with a view to meeting the Italians either France or Italy this week.

Several other European countries have also expressed interest in buying some of the 40 billion cubic metres of gas due to be exported by the Soviet Union under the existing project. Holland and Belgium would like to buy 5 billion

cubic metres of the Soviet gas apiece, Austria 3 billion on top of the 2.5 billion it already receives, and Switzerland one billion.

The United States is concerned at European countries increasing their energy dependence on the Soviet Union. An EEC study suggests that extra gas purchases increase the Community's dependence on Soviet supplies to 21 per cent in 1990 instead of 7 per cent of their overall supplies if the deal did not go through. Belgium, the Russians 38 per cent of its supplies, Italy for 35 per cent, West Germany for 34 per cent and France for 26 per cent, it claimed.

Certain circles in France, notably the Quai d'Orsay, have shared this United States concern and suggested that France reduce the amount of extra gas to be purchased. This lobby became even more vociferous after the events in Poland and the imposition of United States sanctions on the USSR.

The French Government justifies its pushing ahead with the deal with a number of arguments. It claims that the French dependence on Soviet gas could reach 30-32 per cent in 1990, France argues that by that date France will no longer be buying a Soviet oil, thus keeping its overall energy dependence at around 5 per cent.

## Sanctions elude Nato

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 24

It proved impossible to agree a quick coordinated Nato response to show disapproval of military rule in Poland during yesterday's meeting in Brussels of high-level officials.

Further meetings to review the situation were arranged for the next two Wednesdays, but there is no expectation among officials that any Western package of sanctions could be put together before then.

Yesterday's meeting was cautious. The officials agreed there was a need to maintain "steady and gradual pressure" on the Polish military authorities, but they could not decide how best to maintain that pressure.

Afterwards a statement was issued deploring the absence of any signs that the military regime in Poland was easing its control.

A whole range of possible measures was explored, with each country putting forward its own ideas and pointing to the drawbacks in other suggestions. Some ideas were retained for further consideration, including restriction on the movements of Soviet and Polish diplomats within allied countries, a cutback in Soviet imports to the West and an embargo on some exports to Russia and Poland. It was not possible to agree even one sanction which could be implemented collectively and immediately.

## Silence on Soviet grain crop

Moscow, Jan 24 — The omission of the size of the Soviet Union's grain harvest from official statistics on its economic performance in 1981 puzzled Western experts today.

Soviet officials admit that the harvest was hit by "extremely unfavourable weather conditions". But the experts were cautious not to conclude that there had been a catastrophe. Western diplomats suggested that Moscow might be wary of driving up prices on world markets while it is still buying, or that it was exercising prudence about the size of its stocks while still under threat of United States sanctions over Poland.

However, despite this caution, it was clear to the experts that the Soviet Union had suffered its third successive crop failure, depleting grain reserves and placing a question mark over food supplies.

The official silence broke with recent Soviet practice. It followed a mid-year drought, and American forecasts that the crop would be as low as 175 million tonnes, which would need to be topped up with imports of 42 million tonnes.

The Soviet Union produced 189 million tonnes of grain in 1980, compared with the disaster year of 1975, when the harvest was 140 million tonnes.

The scant details given pointed to disastrous results in some other sectors of agriculture. The statistics showed that overall agricultural production was down 2 per cent on 1980, itself a poor year.

The 60.6 million tonnes of sugar beet, and 4.6 million tonnes of sunflower seeds, in vital source of cooking oil in the Soviet Union) were the worst figures since 1963.

Production of potatoes, a basic item in the average Russian's meal when times are hard, was 72 million tonnes, the second-poorest performance in 18 years.

The dairy herd rose by 200,000 to 43.6 million head in 1981, but milk production dropped to its lowest level since 1973. Experts said this indicated that fodder shortages over the last three years were reflected in less productive livestock.

A third poor harvest seems certain to increase shortages of meat, chronic in some parts of the Soviet Union, and lead to longer queues for less food.

The statistics for the end of the first year of the current five-year plan suggested that a national food programme, announced by President Brezhnev last year, is unlikely to have any immediate impact.

One bright spot for agriculture was cotton, where there was a yield of 9.6 million tonnes.

## Italians are denounced by Pravda

Moscow, Jan 24. — The Kremlin fiercely denounced the leadership of the Italian Communist Party under Signor Enrico Berlinguer today and said it was steering the party away from the very basis of communism.

The attack, in *Pravda*, said the leadership of the Italian party had adopted positions that directly helped anti-communist forces in the world.

Relations between the two parties appeared to be near breaking point after today's attack against the independent-minded Italian movement which has taken a strong anti-Soviet line on Poland.

Referring to Signor Berlinguer's denunciation of the military takeover, *Pravda* said the Italian party leadership had used the Polish crisis as a pretext for putting forward views that denigrated world socialism and the Soviet role in building it.

*Pravda* accused Italian party leaders of showing sympathy for Solidarity extremists and dismissed Signor Berlinguer's call for greater human freedoms in the Soviet block.

In recent statements, referring to the Polish crisis, Signor Berlinguer said he believed the cycle of history which began with the Russian Revolution was drawing to a close. He said that this meant some third way had to be found which would include "certain elements" from Lenin's thinking.

The party leaders, *Pravda* said, envisaged offering freedom of action for those who, trampling socialist legality underfoot, and using assistance from outside, were trying to undermine the socialist system.

"And in fact, these people have no such freedom in the countries of real socialism, for to give them it would mean not to consolidate the gains of socialism, and put forward pretentious concepts that were akin to tenets of opportunism and revisionism."

The newspaper accused the leaders of ignoring the reign of terror of the Soviet Union which, it said, was based on strengthening peace and international cooperation, and said they had credited Western insinuations with forging détente.

It further accused the party at its full central committee meeting in Rome on January 13 of making a truly sacrilegious attempt to revise the Party's foreign policy was no different from that of the United States and Nato.

It said the course taken by the leadership ran counter to the interests of its members.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

10 years in jail for sex offences

Paris. — The Assize Court in Rheims has sentenced three former police officers to 10 years' imprisonment each for indecent assault. Although the victim accused the three policemen of raping her, the jury did not proceed with the rape charge.

Pope appeals to Chinese church

Rome. — The Pope has expressed his deep concern for Roman Catholics in China and appealed to them to recognize the authority of Rome, the Vatican said. The Pope wrote in Latin to all Catholic bishops on January 6 recalling the "difficult and prolonged trials" undergone by Chinese Catholics over the past 30 years, in which they proved their loyalty to the church.

Italian terror suspects held

Rome. — Four suspected members of the left-wing Prima Linea terrorist group, sought by police since Thursday in the forests north of Rome, were captured yesterday.

Two other alleged members of the group were arrested on Saturday. The group was believed to be involved in a gunfight with police on Thursday during a bank raid in Siena. Two policemen and a member of the gang were killed.

Israelis deny attack on fishing boats

Beirut. — An Israeli warship and several gunboats escorted by seven Lebanese fishing boats inside Lebanese territorial waters, sinking two of the boats, official press and radio reports here said. The Israeli military command in Tel Aviv denied the story, a spokesman refused to say if Israeli vessels were in the area at the time.

Chirac triumph

Toulouse. — M Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, was triumphantly re-elected leader of the Gaullist RPR (Rassemblement pour la République) at the party's national congress here. He received 99 per cent of the votes.

Roosevelt home burnt

New York. — The Hyde Park mansion where Franklin D. Roosevelt was born was partly destroyed by fire on Saturday, a week before the centenary of his birth. The family art collection was saved.

Tank deal confirmed

Kuala Lumpur. — Katuk Sri Mahathir Muhammad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, confirmed that Malaysia would buy 26 Scorpion light tanks and 26 armoured personnel carriers worth £20m from Britain.

Watertight test

New York. — Twenty-five senior members of the American Defence Department took lie-detector tests in an unsuccessful effort to learn who leaked details of a meeting on defence spending. The New York Times reported, quoting Pentagon officials.

Jazz on the air

New Orleans. — The only commercial, non-religious shortwave radio station in the United States has begun beaming jazz and rock music in what it hopes will become worldwide transmissions.

Chinese usher in Year of the Dog

By Our Foreign Staff

The party begins today throughout east Asia as Chinese celebrate the start of the Year of the Dog with holiday festivities lasting between three and seven days.

In Peking fireworks have, over the past few weeks, heralded the lunar new year, which is supposed to take its characteristics from the canine species — loyalty, tenacity and courage, or, if things go badly, conflict and aggression.

The China Youth News has criticized such "feudal, superstitious" beliefs, deploring the fact that some young people brought forward their wedding day so as to escape any bad luck brought by the Year of the Dog.

For the Chinese, the festival is the biggest holiday of the year. Many people travel to be with their families, causing serious transport problems.

Tens of thousands of people from Hong Kong vied for seats on trains to China. They were loaded with boxes and suitcases packed with food, presents and television sets.

Over the past few weeks

Last chance for agreement on EEC farm deal

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 24

Foreign ministers from the EEC meet in Brussels tomorrow for what must be the last attempt to agree guidelines for the reform of Europe's budget and agricultural policy.

The meeting is a resumption of the informal one here ten days ago when the ministers appeared to get within striking distance of agreement on the guidelines, which have eluded them for the past six months.

The remaining points, however, are prodigious. Both of the major ones find Britain almost on its own facing its partners. Even agreement on them would still leave Ireland, with backing from Greece, Italy and Denmark, seeking better assurances about future levels of expenditure on agriculture.

The two main problems concern the amount of Britain's budgetary contribution and ways of controlling milk production while helping small dairy farmers. The budgetary question, which precipitated the chain of negotiations, looks the easier of the two to solve.

According to the text worked out at the last meeting, all that is left to argue about on the budget is how long it should last and whether the amount of rebate to Britain should decrease each year.

Britain wants the deal to

last five years before a review, while the others are prepared to offer four. Britain is also standing firm against any idea that its rebate should diminish.

Difficulties will arise if any of the ministers try to insist on putting forward figures as to what the guidelines would mean in real cash. Britain would object to any such idea on the grounds that all figures are hypothetical until the proper financial mechanisms are worked out later.

The problem of controlling the milk surplus looks more intractable. Britain has rejected the compromise text proposed because it feels nothing is being suggested which will really cut the milk production, now exceeding the Community's ability to consume it by around 20 per cent. The other countries will be looking for a softer British line.

Should the meeting reach agreement on the guidelines considerable negotiating will still need to be done by specialist councils. Nevertheless, it will mean that the entire package of Community reforms, including restructuring of the regional and social funds, will then be ready for approval by the European summit in March.

Should the meeting fail, the whole package, including the many parts already negotiated over the past six months, will be thrown away.

Waldheim's new post may start controversy

From Our Correspondent New York, Jan 24

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former United Nations Secretary-General, who was known for his penchant for avoiding controversy, may soon find himself part of one, scarcely three weeks after leaving office.

The issue is his appointment by the Austrian Government as its special envoy at international conferences, a move which runs contrary to a United Nations resolution seeking a decent interval from the time a Secretary-General, who is an international civil servant, retires so when he once again becomes beholden to a government.

Having foreseen the likelihood that a Secretary-General would throughout his tenure be privy to sensitive and confidential information, the General Assembly in 1946 passed a resolution designed to protect the trust between the United Nations and its members.

It states that "because the Secretary-General is a confidant of many governments, no member government should offer him immediately upon retirement any position in which his confidential information might be a source of embarrassment to other members, and on his part a retired Secretary-General should refrain from accepting any such position".

Dr Waldheim, who ran vigorously albeit unsuccessfully for a third term, had indicated interest in obtaining new employment as soon as possible. Last Thursday Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, announced on Austrian radio the new posting for Dr Waldheim, who served briefly as Austria's Foreign Minister before his election as Secretary-General in 1971.

Because Dr Waldheim, as Secretary-General, was not considered a staff member of the secretariat, his possible breach of ethics will not cost him his £35,000 a year tax-free "retirement allowance".



Supporters of Amnesty's national day in France wore white masks on the Paris streets at the weekend to symbolize the anonymity of political prisoners who disappear throughout the world.

'Spies for Olympics' report upsets US Jews

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, Jan 24

Jewish communities in California have greeted with scepticism and growing concern a controversial police claim that the Soviet Union is sending hardened criminals to the United States posing as Jewish immigrants in a Machiavellian plot to disrupt the 1984 Olympics.

The one page report, entitled "Soviet Emigrants", caused something of a sensation when it was released by the Los Angeles police department.

It alleged that the Soviet Union was taking advantage

of the United States' increased quota of 50,000 refugees a year to infiltrate intelligence agents and spies, some of whom were not Jewish and were in fact criminals in Russia.

The report alleged that most of the organized crime activities involving Soviet emigrants was controlled and directed from the Brighton Beach area of Brooklyn, New York. However, in New York, Mr Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the largest United States

group that helps Russian Jews to immigrate called the report "far fetched".

"There are probably some criminals among the 90,000 Jews who have immigrated into America in the past 10 years, but there is a vast difference between that and a Russian Mafia. There is a vast overestimation of the ability of the Soviet Union to control the lives of private individuals", he said.

Members of the Los Angeles Russian Jewish emigre community were upset by the report and were concerned

that it would "seriously diminish job opportunities, breed suspicion and reflect a growing trend toward isolationism and chauvinism in the United States".

A federal police official was quoted in the Los Angeles Times as noting that almost any crime might involve "a Russian emigrant oriented pickpocket group".

Observers here believe that the report may simply be something of a storm in a teacup and may merely be a piece of propaganda

Europe to tighten safety controls

By Michael Bailey Shipping Correspondent

Stringent policing measures to reduce the number of sub-standard ships are expected to be agreed by governments of 14 European states meeting in Paris tomorrow.

Instead of leaving countries like Panama and Liberia to take action against their own offending ships, the 14 states, including Britain, will board and inspect ships visiting their ports and if necessary detain them and take legal action while faults are put right.

All the states are stepping up their surveillance forces in the ports and aim to board a quarter of all visiting ships by 1985, a total of about 15,000 a year.

Britain's minister at tomorrow's meeting, Mr Iain Sproat, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, said at the weekend: "I am looking forward to a constructive meeting that will bring about concerted European action for safer and cleaner seas".

In Britain inspections by the 150 port surveyors have already increased from about 500 to 1,800 a year. Some have led to detentions costing ship owners thousands of pounds a day.

The inspectors look for badly kept ships, defective safety and navigation equipment, sub-standard crew and catering facilities, and evidence of pollutants being discharged into the sea.

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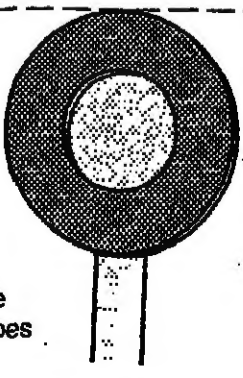
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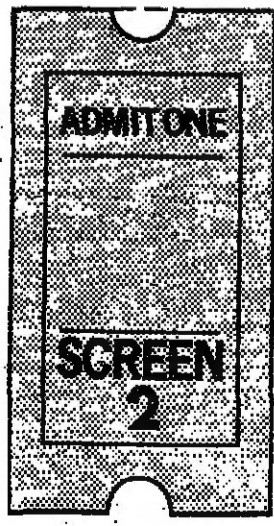
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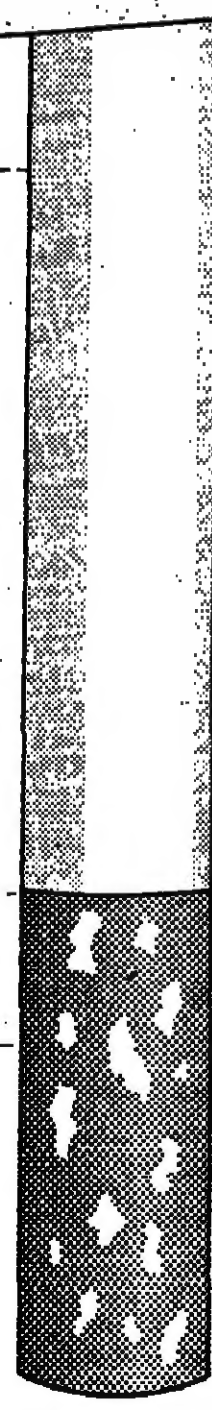
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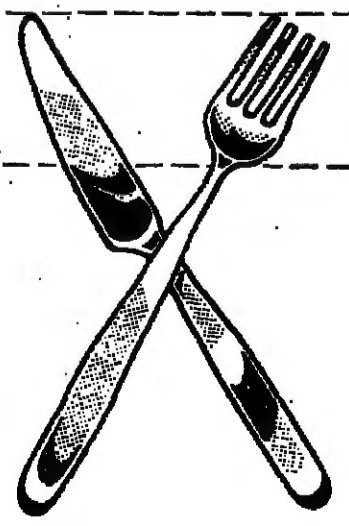
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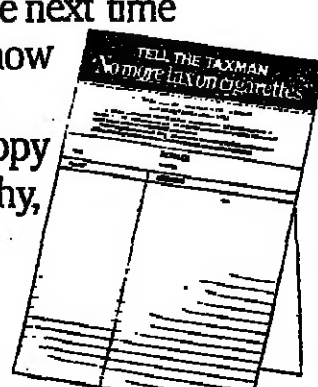
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\*Figures quoted are based on Government estimates 1981/82 and include cigarettes, cigars and tobaccos, plus VAT.





# India and Pakistan begin new search for trust

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 24

India and Pakistan are beginning another of their diplomatic tangles. The object is to bring some trust and understanding to their dangerous and potentially dangerous relationship.

At a time when the relationship is under more strain than usual, Mr. Agha Shahi, the Pakistan Foreign Minister and one of the shrewdest diplomats in Asia, arrives in Delhi this week for talks about a non-aggression agreement.

The core of the relationship is suspicion and historical prejudice. To this has been added the Kashmir dispute and three wars in the 34 years since partition. Today it is aggravated by anxiety over nuclear capability and intention, the Russian occupation of Afghanistan and the United States' supply of arms to Pakistan.

The American case is that Pakistan has to be armed because it is a front line state facing the Russians. But India's reaction was bound to be strong. The arms deal challenges a key element in subcontinent stability, the Indian perception that stability is based on overwhelming Indian superiority.

In Pakistan there is considerable anxiety about

India's steamroller might, and Pakistanis fear India more than they do the Soviet Union. In turn, Indians think that American tanks and fighters are meant for use against them.

There is pressure on the Government to keep India's lead immense. At the same time the arms equation is complicated by nuclear developments. Pakistan is thought to be working on a nuclear explosion.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, has talked often of "gathering war clouds", to some extent a ritual incantation meant for internal consumption. When President Zia proposed a non-aggression pact his suggestion appeared curiously, in a Pakistan press release last September, as a "gesture of goodwill".

It seemed a coy, even sly, approach; and India, unprepared, was wrong-footed by it. The slow and negative Indian response gave an impression that Pakistan had scored propaganda points. But Delhi had genuine reservations about Pakistan's sincerity, wondering what President Zia's game was.

India and Pakistan already have a no-war pact, the

agreement signed at Simla in 1972. Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. It was agreed that all Indo-Pakistan disputes should be settled peacefully through mutual discussion, without outside assistance.

India will want to ensure that this principle is retained, particularly with regard to Kashmir. Its hope is that Pakistan will eventually agree to recognize the 1948 ceasefire line as the official border. But it would be difficult for Pakistan to agree to do so and, pact or no pact, a central dispute will stand.

It is hard to see that in itself a no-war pact will have any meaning beyond the symbolic. But the search for a reduction of the tensions created by recent events is important, given the widespread acceptance of the view that Indo-Pakistan detente is the nub of regional stability.

It will nevertheless be difficult even to begin to chip away at the suspicion and fear which characterise Indo-Pakistan dealings. One has only to look at the way in which the newspapers write about the neighbour. The chained press of Pakistan and the free press of India mirror societies which prefer to believe the worst of each other.

On Wednesday the Council of the world's oldest animal welfare society will try to resolve a deep cash crisis. And next month it will receive a disturbing report on the administration of its Horsham headquarters. Richard North profiles a great institution which has always attracted controversy as well as royal patronage.

In the evening of June 16, 1824, an odd assortment of Quakers, Anglican vicars and others met at Old St. Martin's Lane. They were convened by the Rev. Arthur Broome, from east London, and included the leading animal welfareist of the day, the extraordinary, jangling Irish landowner, Mr. Richard "Hairtrigger Dick" Martin.

The society that was born that evening — it was soon to receive Princess Victoria's blessing and become the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals — has always wavered between eccentricity and respectability, and sometimes attracted those who make a giddy cocktail of the two. But now there is a small cloud hanging over its head.

It is a small cloud, but it could have prepared the first and greatest animal welfare organization in the world for the quite possibly terminal crisis which now besets it. For years its debates have been unending like the baying of the hounds of hell, and at times its intrigues have made the machinations of the Borgias look like inept prep school conspiracies over a dormitory.

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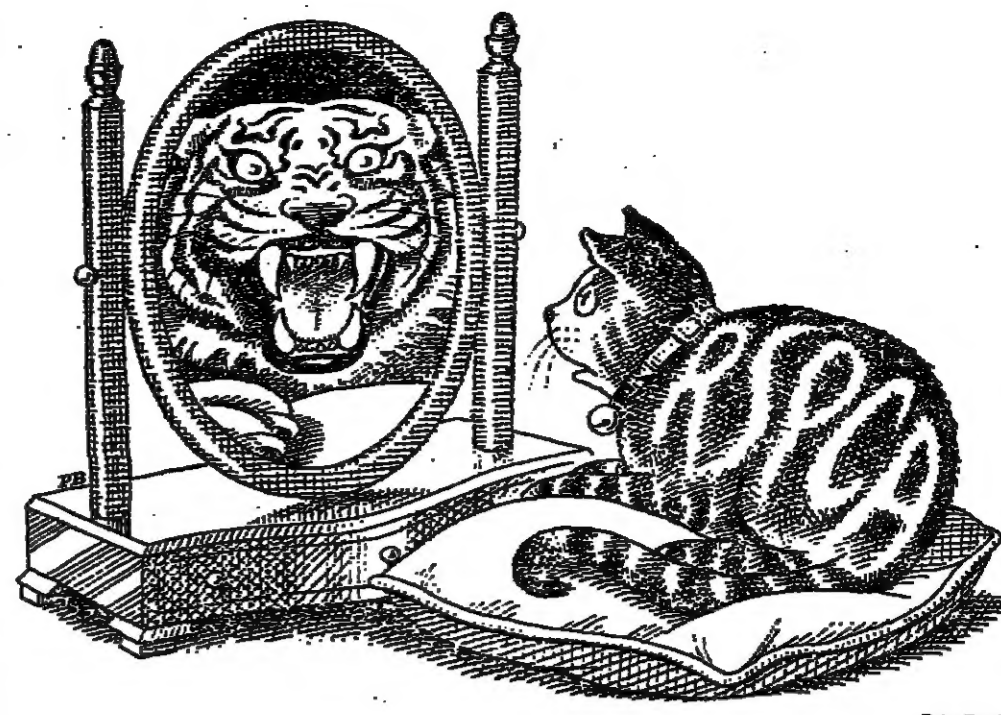
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Peter Brooks

it was bound to become a battleground as young people came to see man's treatment of animals as an ethical issue which was — however oddly — central to the ecological idea which has gained so much ground since the sixties.

Young people began to join the society, which — because of a surprisingly small membership, currently of about 38,000 — turned out to be very vulnerable to this "enthusiasm", as a *Daily Telegraph* editorial bellowed.

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## Censorship tightened once again

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad, Jan 24

Press censorship in Pakistan which was partly relaxed by General Zia ul-Haq about two weeks ago, has been once again tightened with the Sind government directing newspaper editors not to publish political news or views.

General Zia had announced relaxation in press censorship on the inauguration of his advisory council of 28 nominated members earlier this month. This led to renewed efforts by political leaders who opposed the council, towards the restoration of the 1973 constitution and the holding of general elections.

Since General Zia left for his European tour on January 17, Karachi became the hub of numerous private political meetings of the leaders of different political parties. Among the topics discussed were the alliance of right-wing parties to work with the Movement for Restoration of Democracy to which six parties, including the late Mr. Bhutto's People's Party, subscribes.

Some right-wing leaders have also suggested the formation of a grand assembly to counter General Zia's federal council. Such an assembly might include former parliamentarians and those who contested 1970 and 1977 general elections.

On Friday, however, the Sind government served notice on about 70 leaders who are either in Karachi, or thinking of travelling there to suspend their political activities because they contravened the martial law order.

More than a dozen leaders were expelled from Sind province and others were placed under house arrest. Mr. Sherbaz Mazari, chairman of the National Democratic Party said it was now uncertain whether the movement for the Restoration of Democracy could hold its scheduled meeting in Karachi next week.

## Leadership contest begins Why one German is polishing his image

By Richard Davy

When Dr. Helmut Kohl comes to London he will be received as the most likely to be the next Chancellor of West Germany, but he has a number of hurdles to surmount. He is now chairman of the opposition Christian Democratic Party.

If the governing coalition were to come to an end, this year he would slide almost automatically into the top job; but that is unlikely. Power is a strong glue and the Social Democrats and Christian Democrats have become adept at ironing out their differences. Moreover, the Social Democrats have largely agreed among themselves on how to avoid a crisis over nuclear weapons, which might have brought down Herr Helmut Schmidt in the spring party congress.

Another route to power will open up if the Christian Democrats win the Landtag election in Hesse this autumn without losing majorities elsewhere. They would then have a two-thirds majority in the Bundesrat (Federal Upper House) which would enable them to block legislation.

It is widely believed that public opinion would not like them to exploit this power to bring government to a standstill so there would be no automatic change; but there would be powerful pressure from the grassroots of the party, and Dr. Kohl, himself, could be tempted by the thought that this was his last chance.

He might well be right about that. His party is less than totally enthusiastic about him and if given until the next scheduled federal election in 1984, he would become more nervous about looking for another candidate.

Dr. Kohl's problem is that he still cannot shake off the reputation of being a successful provincial politician who is not quite up to the big issues of the capital. Among



Dr. Kohl: manoeuvring

other things he is one of the few leading politicians in Bonn who speaks no English. That is a disadvantage in NATO politics.

Now 51, he rose to prominence in the Rheinland Palatinate. He was Prime Minister there from 1959 to 1976, when his party unable to agree on anyone else, put him forward as candidate for the chancellorship. He did rather well — getting 48.6 per cent — which is more than Herr Strauss got as the party's candidate in 1980. It gave him the confidence and support to carry on.

He is a comfortable figure, friendly and sociable, most at home chatting over a glass of wine from his own region. But he is quite effective on a public platform talking about things like moral standards, the family and the dangers of communism. He offers a moderate shift to the right, arguing that the country has been living beyond its means.

There must, he says, be a change in the moral climate, a cutback in the welfare state, more individual freedom and less liberal attitudes towards abortion and homosexuality.

Given the seemingly steady decline in public support for the Social Democrats, the Christian Democrats have a good chance of winning the 1984 election.

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THE ARTS

Television  
Antic  
Symbols

Theatre as dissent, as a political weapon to make people aware of how they are enslaved by mechanisms they cannot understand — that is the objective of the Theatre of the 8th Day, Poland's leading independent theatre group and the first subject of IWT's South Bank Show last night.

The group, who pre-date Solidarity, were given official status in 1979 in the hope, it was suggested, that institutionalisation might somehow blunt their purpose. They are based in Poznan and cling to a provincial base, performing mainly to student audiences in basements, adapting the form of their productions to the occasion. All are untrained and extrapolate their performances from an agreed idea or area of concern. Their present status is unknown but they were filmed here in the summer of last year when things in Poland seemed hopeful, though obviously not hopeful enough for them.

Melvin Bragg remarked that the excerpts we were to see would seem strange to us and he was right: they were antic, symbolic and, inevitably, distanced by language, but none the less they did suggest something of the social deformities that oppressive systems produce. Mr Bragg is right to tackle the not-so-easily comprehensible from time to time.

His second subject was Bernard d'Ascoli, the 23-year-old French pianist, blind since the age of three, a prizewinner at the Leeds competition last year, who makes his concert debut in Britain at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tonight.

Mr d'Ascoli has now given up competitions, finding them inhibiting to expression and a bit like sports. He talked interestingly of the difficulties of blindness, which he has demonstrated convincingly, and about Chopin, his favourite composer, and made his musical comparisons. He also played pieces by Chopin, Beethoven and Schubert, and it was this split between interview and performance that made his half of the programme somewhat unsatisfying. Better one thing or the other, but still worth watching.

World About Us on BBC2, which dealt with threats to the people and environment of the Himalayas by the felling of trees, seemed determined to say the same thing over and over, more in the fashion of advertising, which regards repetition as the basis of its credo, than documentary.

The programme had an engaging character to follow around, Sunderlal Bahuguna, a former Congress Party activist who has moved away from politics to religion but has become a formidable opponent of the exploitation of the Himalayas for timber. He is a propagandist who believes that the residual wisdom of the people is greater than that of politicians, a belief which is not confined to the Himalayas.

He observes that as the trees are felled, the unimpeded rain sweeps the soil away so that "the wealth of the Himalayas is disappearing into the Bay of Bengal." It is a sad story, repeated in other places, of course. Some 40 million acres of the world's forest are disappearing yearly with dire ecological consequences and Sunderlal Bahuguna are very much aware of this. He has a message home, you have to come into a rather closer focus than Richard Taylor's production managed. Otherwise you end up, as this programme did, I fear, being tedious.

Dennis Hackett

Opera

The Marriage of Figaro  
Coliseum

It is rather more than two years since Jonathan Miller's then fairly new production of Mozart's *Figaro* was last given by English National Opera. For the current revival several roles have changed hands. It could be seen that the newcomers were less at ease than John Tomlinson's noisy, doltish, yet ultimately winning and well sung Figaro, or the comic roles so handsomely taken by Stuart Kale (a Robertson Hare and Errol Shilling (whose perpetually sowed Antonio owes a mite too much to the bizarre routines of the jailer Frosch).

Miller's production is chiefly concerned with real people, not strip-cartoon composites, the troubled, insecure principal characters. Lois McDonnell catches the roguish, flirtatious, high-spirited nature of Countess Almaviva more interestingly, better than her wretchedness, more affecting vocalization. Neil Howlett's Almaviva, bel canto impressively on display in the last two acts, gives the effect of several conflicting male characters by turns, charming in public, tetchy before his wife and personal servants, an ambitious youngster prematurely falling into middle age, unless a pretty girl is to hand.

On Thursday Robert Cogo-Fawcett and Alan Lord, administrators respectively of the Riverside Studios and the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, met for lunch at the Lyric. The former has just ceased being the recipient of an annual £200,000 from Hammersmith and Fulham Council while the latter continues to receive local-authority subsidy at the rate of £400,000 annually. To add further flavour to their food, the former receives an annual £65,000 from the Arts Council while the Lyric, in spite of repeated representations, is cold-shouldered by 105 Piccadilly.

The financial contrasts reflect aesthetic and historical dissimilarities. But lunch will not entirely have been in vain for the Lyric and Riverside both inhabit Hammersmith, a now-thriving enclave midway between the Barbican and Heathrow, and they will have been able to discuss the anomaly of running two major subsidised theatres within a few hundred yards of each other. It is an anomaly which has been made more pointed by the Riverside development which will probably be approved by the Greater London Council Planning Committee on Wednesday.

The development will be the salvation of Riverside, which has just emerged from a traumatic year. It began with an accumulated deficit of £52,000 which leapt to £76,000 by November after appalling months in June and September. Apart from the local authority and Arts Council money, Riverside also received £3,000 from the Greater London Arts Association and £25,000 from the GLC. It was the latter which

came to the rescue by giving two years' future subsidy in one go. This puts the GLC in the curious position of making a planning decision on a scheme to which the same authority has already committed itself for the medium term with a £50,000 advance. There is a quiet optimism in the air.

Such nuances aside, however, the Riverside development, which has already been approved by Hammersmith Council, should be passed for two reasons. First it represents an ingenious and original way of blending private capital and public subsidy for the arts. Secondly, the proposed buildings by Will Alsop, George Finch and John Llyall are architecturally refreshing in their post-modernist plurality of styles and references.

The £18m development involves spending £1.5m on the studios and creating 80,000 sq ft of offices, 20,000 sq ft of houses, some studios for sale, a headquarters for a touring ballet company, a wine bar, a restaurant and 77,000 sq ft of media centre, which, despite its name, is an entirely commercial proposition to be leased to television and film companies.

The pension fund consortium which will finance the scheme will subsidize the studios to the extent of £250,000 annually, index-linked from January 1 this year and, subject to negotiation, £825,000 to keep them in business over the three-year development period. From all this the Riverside will get two acoustically separate studios, so that they can be used simultaneously, as well as a variety of other improved facilities which should enhance both

their box-office income — running at £174,000 this year — and revenue from other areas — currently £100,000. The result will be a better earnings-to-subsidy ratio as well as independence from the local authority.

The carrot which is luring the investors into this improbable display of cultural altruism is the availability of prime development land with permission for relatively intensive office and residential development. The subsidy element amounts to no more than an effective ground rent on the site. Thus the Riverside's salvation has been engineered by the happy accident of a two-acre site next door becoming available as a result of the council's decision to centralize its depot. The borough will continue to have two major cultural centres, not counting the BBC of course, as well as the smaller Bush and Grove theatres.

The key to this development of a west London West End, which, unlike its central counterpart is so far relatively unsullied by discarded polystyrene fast food containers, appears to be the attitude of the local authority. Alan Lord of the Lyric comments: "We cannot sing the praises of Hammersmith Council too highly." Indeed the Lyric's £400,000 should more correctly be seen in the context of no bills for rent or rates which creates a subsidy package with an effective value of about £1m. Meanwhile the Riverside, which just happens to be in Hammersmith because that is where the disused BBC studios were, has been faithfully supported to the point where it looked certain that the development was likely to take over.

Dick Ollin, director of leisure and recreation, says: "Hammersmith a few years ago did not have a lot to recommend it, so we felt we had to put something back. And it does seem to have developed a distinct identity as a good place to live with the way property prices are moving all over the borough. We had quite an artistic community here anyway."

But will this policy, as well as the steady enrichment of the commercial centre as more than a place for the flyover to fly over, amount to enough to justify the existence of the two theatres in such close proximity? Stylistically they could not be more different — the Lyric with its lovingly reproduced interior laden with fibrous plasterwork and soaring proscenium arch and Riverside with its flexible spaces. But, since the arrival of Peter James as artistic director of the Lyric, there is some overlap in their commitment to community theatre. In the case of the Lyric this may also be seen as a useful strategy for drawing in the Arts Council, which has so far refused to support the Lyric on the grounds that it is too close to the West End.

Finally, however, it is clear that Hammersmith with its big corporation headquarters, its geography, its "artistic community" and its property prices is providing the economic foundation for a cultural endowment which was accidental but is now to be claimed in the name of Planning. The theatres' half of the bargain will be to provide the kind of product and reputation which will sustain the momentum.

Bryan Appleyard



Cogo-Fawcett (left) and the architect William Alsop with model of the proposed new complex

Concerts

Handel Opera  
Society/Farncombe

Queen Elizabeth Hall

The Fireworks Music and coronation anthems apart, Handel's serenades to state occasions tend to be edged out of the repertoire. Sometimes they are forgotten altogether; one such, of which no complete score survives, is the *Antheum* on the occasion of the coronation of George III. The piece that provoked the fireworks, written for the Chapel Royal, recently reconstructed by Donald Burrows, it had a hearing on Saturday. The music is not unfamiliar: Handel drew on *Messiah* and other works for it. The result is an agreeable occasional piece of some 15 minutes, beginning with a fine duet and chorus ingeniously and effectively made out of "How beautiful are the feet". We also had Handel sounding off in honour of the royal triumph at Dettingen in 1743.

This *Te Deum* is something of a rarity, perhaps because it is patchy, much of the music is adapted from a setting by F.A. Urio, and the piece lacks the inspiration of Handel even at his second best: plenty of jubilant D major, but a touch of partiality to the English cause, but not many grand ideas, not much ring of conviction.

This kind of music, naturally, is apt to sound best from a modest-sized professional choir, boys and men, in a chapel. The Handel Opera Chorus seemed cumbersome, try though Charles Farncombe did to guide them clearly and precisely. We had good solo singing, however, from the countertenor Charles Brett, a master of the parts, and a fine line, and particularly Ian Cadbury, who sang the bass solos, including a fiery trumpet aria and the touching "When thou tokest upon thee", where he showed distinguished legato phrasing.

Stanley Sadie

Singcircle

St John's

Fifty years have passed since Brecht was working with Weill, a century more since Beethoven wrote his ninth symphony. It is not easy to feel confident that music can change the world, or that a composer can do as much with a song cycle culled from witnesses for the revolution. But this does not mean that political music is a dead issue, as Dominic Muldowney has shown in a quite remarkably astute, subtle and beautiful work introduced on Saturday night by Gregory Rose's excellent group of singers and players, Singcircle and Circle.

In *Dark Times* uses poems by Brecht, but not the hectoring calls to arms or the savage accusations, for this is not a piece smugly content with wearing the right badge

Northern  
Sinfonia/Vasary

Queen Elizabeth Hall

It is well known that any self-respecting violin, left to its own devices, will play the hectoring calls to arms or the savage accusations, for this is not a piece smugly content with wearing the right badge

Appearing on the South Bank for the first time, Miss Milanova did not dominate by weight of tone or emotional exaggeration, for her sound

of allegiance. Instead Muldowney chooses texts that are contemplative, doubtful and apologetic, and the manner of his music, hard-edged, strong and independent, is not to endorse them but to expose and by implication question verbal messages. The words are part of a fractured mélange of attitudes, involved in processes that have become ossified and redundant, entwined by vocal quartet and Pierrot quintet in mechanical, precise constructions.

This is a moving and disquieting essay on an individual's power to act in the political world, a kaleidoscope of sharply featured anxieties that has its heart in the right place but cannot decide where to put its mind. And, if it is also music of great accomplishment, that is only because it is far easier to solve musical than political problems.

Paul Griffiths

was light and bouncy, her expressive aim always fine, whether the result was blithe or touching. What kept her on top was her airy rhythm, huge lack of emphasis on strong beats, contrasting with Mr Vasary's decisive metre, so that she seemed often to be gliding on the accompaniment, directed by it but free as a bird.

This refreshing performance was especially welcome at the end of an unfocused concert that had begun with Haydn's E flat "Paris" Symphony, squarely done, and continued with two central European lost causes. *Summer Evening*, an idyll by Mr Vasary's teacher Kodaly, was piously endowed with colour and stamina but remained an unfortunate mix of Bartok and Delius, and Habla's first concert turned out to be the sort of piece that has decided on atonality and is determined to stick with it.

Paul Griffiths

Dance

Sandra Ferri's engaging Red Riding Hood, and Stephen Sheriff soars crisply through his entries as Florestan. Gillian Kingsley's sharp attack and happy manner as one of Florestan's sisters made the Ashton choreography of her solo sparkle afresh.

Ravenma Tucker, another newcomer as Princess Florine, showed confident promise, and the general liveliness spread right through to the supporting company too. Emanuel Young shaped the music with tempi that sounded fair to Tchaikovsky and helpful to the dancers, but the level of orchestral playing did not match that of the dancing in polish or spirit.

John Percival

Sketches

I admire Tamara McLorg's attempts to bring a theatrical quality into her solo dance programmes, but I cannot help wondering whether she has gone too far in that direction with her latest programme, premiered on Saturday evening at the Trident Hall Theatre, Greenwich. The dance seems to be getting submerged under the other trappings.

The title, *Sketches*, indicates the format: a series of separate pieces each suggesting a character or situation. McLorg can bring her dance skills to unlikely contexts,

such as *Lights Out* in which she shows a girl committing suicide with an overdose of pills. Even the use of a spoken text at times (ingeniously assembled from fragments of Ingmar Bergman and Oscar Wilde) does not prevent the main impact coming from her use of expressive movement in relation to the David Bowie music.

As the title and the sung words of another number, *Where's Bazookin'?*, are in Polish, it would be helpful to have some indication of the content. Even without that, the dance has enough passion and drama to suggest a comment on Poland's present troubles, and I found it impressive even though it suffered from being given immediately after, and among the clutter of a room, a hollow bit of melodramatic nonsense misleadingly called *Twice Nightly at the Windmill*.

The quest for variety in the rest of the programme is successful, but only at the expense of varying quality too: sometimes poised and original, sometimes twee or sentimental. The specially written music for some of the numbers is not very notable, but the look of the stage almost throughout, with three portable screens and a few other accessories, is good. Alan Lyddiard directed, and the cooperation of a theatre man is obviously beneficial, but I think McLorg should trust her own instincts more for the dance content. John Percival

Theatre

Real experience

Child's Play

Crucible Studio,  
Sheffield

It could be seen as a morality play on the new morality, commissioned by Planned Parenthood as a graphic warning of the realities of child-bearing. Instead, it is a personal and little bit celebratory, clearly. Roy Robinson, private vision of parenthood as a long-running tragicomic serial.

In the second act of *Child's Play*, the adventure has reached the age of one and a quarter. The parents are enduring the second day of the Spock method of breaking a child's will to cry for feeding in the night, which consists of ignoring the incessant squalling for three nights. Their nerves are stretched by the experiment to the point at which they express animosity in baby talk, and batter each other with harsh accusations and bitter confessions.

Every outburst and gesture is the stuff of theatrical life, but it also rings with domestic truth. The writing demands that the actors mix the varieties of expression, ranging from psychological acting-out, with the father identifying with his son in a play group, to super-articulate realism and music-hall bravado. What gives it strength is that real experience is always on display, and the devastating dialogues

of mutual loathing lack the gentility of fiction, although there is a foundation of affection.

To get to that point in the serial, Mr Robinson offers a first act of detailed pre-natal chronology. He has stripped the fat from an earlier play, which appeared in London as *Holding the Baby*, and immediately confronts the audience with a question: How do you tell an unsuspecting partner you are going to have his baby? Deborah Findlay acts some ingenious charades in rehearsal, and then blunts tells Michael Irving: "I'm pregnant".

The rest of the act follows the usual biological progression, and Mr Robinson freezes the moments of rage and ecstasy with photographic precision. It engages interest, and amuses in its clinical detail and emotional revelation, and Clare Venables, in her first production as artistic director of the Crucible, provides exactly the right exhibitionist tone. The specifically private nature of the play, which could guarantee annual instalments of parental discovery, excuses the attitude of "artistic adventure". The couple are not so original as they believe, and being legally unmarried is barely relevant. The fine acting demonstrates the broader application: each child changes the world of its parents.

Ned Chaillet

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# The Polish hunger that could explode into revolt

Next Monday, food prices in Poland will quadruple. It was increases in the price of food that led to the riots of 1970 and 1976 . . . Roger Boyes reports from Warsaw.

A scene from the Polish winter. Between the wooden stalls of the peasants' market in Warsaw, a wrinkled-faced woman bundled up in a dozen scarves offers a basketful of eggs: 15 cents each, no zloties accepted.

On the black market, a dollar is now worth at least 1,000 zloties; 10 eggs at that rate is a week's wages. The arithmetic is frightening but people still buy one or two eggs at a time.

A young woman packs her egg in snow and carries it away cradled in her hands as if it were a Fabergé creation.

Inevitably, a small crowd gathers and, less predictably, a man starts to complain: "How can you do this to us? Why don't you accept Polish money?" She replies: "I need money to buy wine for my daughter's wedding. I need dollars. Suddenly, in a flash of anger, mutely encouraged by the crowd, the man stamps his foot in the basket. Egg shards stick to the bottom of his boots, the woman howls and pushes him, the crowd disperses.

These incidents do not happen every day. On the whole the Poles have learned to live with the small and not so small injustices in their lives. But of all of Poland's social tensions, of all the defeats and humiliations, it is those associated with food that linger in the dark recesses, that spark off rows and fights.

In 1970, riots followed rises in prices and a regime fell. In 1976 riots followed food price rises and another government was almost toppled. Food, its absence and its expense, is the most-

politically explosive substance in Poland. On February 1, food prices are going up again. We have been warned, more than warned, consulted. But they go up anyway, 200 per cent, 400 per cent. A kilo of sugar now 10.5 zloties will be 46 zloties. A quarter of a kilo of butter now 17 zloties will be 60 zloties. A kilo of unfilled beef now 30 zloties will be 100 zloties. A kilo of ham now 59 zloties will be 280.

The increases span most foodstuffs and are coupled with less dramatic increases in electricity and fuel costs. However, most people will receive 750 zloties compensation, a wage bonus to help them cope.

Perhaps to Western eyes those prices do not seem too terrible. At the official rate of exchange (about 75 zloties to the dollar, about 150 to the pound), some of the meat prices would be still competitive in Western terms.

But the idea underpinning the increases seem to be exorbitant. Wages were increased by about 25 per cent last year and those extra zloties have to be soaked up, supply has to be matched with demand (albeit by throwing back demand and not increasing supply).

Farmers have to be given fairer prices and have to be encouraged to sell to the state rather than privately; and subsidies must be phased out if the economy is to make any sense at all.

Common sense appears to be behind the move, public opinion is not. The problem is this: ratios are not being honoured. Rations vary from between 2.5 and 6 kilos of meat per person a month; not a lot but just about enough.

With the new price rises, if a man receives his full ration of meat, sugar, butter and adds normal consumption of milk and potatoes, then between a quarter and a third of his 6,500 zloties average for white-collar workers has disappeared.

Even that is within the bounds of tolerance. Many urban Westerners spend a third of their salaries on rent. Poles spend it on food. But what if the rations were not honoured? What if the food shortages are so severe that the official shops do not and cannot offer enough food? Then, in order to eat, the Pole must turn to the private markets.

Polish agriculture is overwhelmingly in the hands of the private farmers and it is still largely up to them to decide whether they sell directly to the public or whether they sell to the state. The peasant woman with the eggs was selling directly.

But the prices on the private market will now take off. If egg prices triple in the official shops, then on the private market they are likely to quadruple: the era of the 50-cent egg is fast approaching.

The implications of this are, to understate the matter, disturbing. Many Poles will simply have to withdraw from the food market: that is, they will have to stop eating many types of food. Western agricultural experts have said that is exactly what the Government has in mind, to force the population to eat less meat, for only that can correct the imbalances in Polish agriculture. And only a government operating under martial law would be



A nation that stands in line: shoppers in Warsaw waiting at a parade of empty stores

able to enforce that shift in consumption patterns.

Meanwhile, the tension between town and country will be aggravated. The countryside is always better fed than the large townships, though there are also problems there. Those with access to hard currency are in conflict with those without: the richer peasants versus the poorer peasants.

Raising food prices in a centrally planned economy is a question of balancing economic necessity with political judgment. Raising food prices at a time of severe shortages solves neither economic needs (except in the crudest way of stifling demand), nor does it solve political problems. On the contrary, fresh social tensions will be created, tensions that escape even the control of the military.

But how enduring are the shortages? If food were to return to the shops soon, then the Cassandra cries will be misplaced.

Greater food supplies would improve the standing of the military rulers. When troops were sent to the countryside last autumn, for

example, the move was welcomed by most townspeople. Their deep-rooted suspicions that they were being swindled by the farmers were being put to the test and there was considerable confidence that the army would stamp out corruption. In fact, the army may simply have been preparing the ground for the December takeover. Checking local storage depots could have been the precursor to the procurement of food when necessary.

The facts and statistics of food supply are grim; nor do they look like improving this year or next. Grain production at 20 million tonnes is about 2 million tonnes up on 1980. But it has to be borne in mind that 1979 and 1980 represented the worst harvests for a decade — 1981 only mildly improved on that.

Poland needs about 27 million tonnes of grain to feed itself. But Poland's catastrophic balance of payments with Western indebtedness of at least \$27,000 million and teetering on the brink of default, means that it has been able to import very little, about 1.5 million tonnes

in total from Canada and France on credit terms.

The immediate consequences of this shortfall are threefold: bread is likely to be in short supply very soon. The imported grain is wheat which should help in bread production but it will go only a small way to meeting the current demand.

Second, it has led to a serious shortage of feed grain for cattle. The result is that there will be a large number of distress slaughtering. This may in the initial stage lead to more beef in the shops, but not for long. It takes three to five years to rebuild the herd. The Government hopes to encourage the farmers to shift to breeding pigs which have a shorter market cycle and it is easier and cheaper to feed pigs.

Finally, there is a severe poultry shortage because of the absence of maize. Polish officials have been blaming this directly on United States measures against Poland. Only two countries produce sufficient maize — America and South Africa, and Poland has no diplomatic or official trading relations with South Africa.

The refusal to sell maize to Poland means, Polish officials say, that about 300 to 400 million birds will not be fed. Poultry is the most important low-cost meat in Poland, but due to the lack of maize there will be virtually no chickens in the shops by the end of this month. Poland needs 120,000 tonnes of poultry meat to produce the average poultry consumption of one kilo a month, but 20,000 tonnes of that will now drop out.

According to Ministry of Agriculture estimates, the amount of meat and poultry bought from private farmers in the first quarter of this year will be about 400,000 tonnes, or 180,000 tonnes down on the same period in 1981, itself a bleak year for food supply.

The military council's answer to this catalogue has been to issue a series of veiled threats about procurement. But it is not clear how much this will achieve even if it were practicable to force farmers to produce more grain at bayonet-point. According to Western estimates, farmers are hoarding more than about 1.5 million

tonnes of grain and that still leaves a substantial shortfall. On the other hand voluntary measures to persuade the farmers to part with their produce are also unlikely to succeed. The council of ministers has now approved a scheme whereby farmers are offered bonds in return for grain deliveries to the state. The farmers could then redeem the bonds in two or three years time, receive the year's highest price for their crop as well as interest payments.

But this begs the question. Farmers are not parting with their grain because they have lost faith in the economy and because at a time of peasant uncertainty they feel it is safer to hang on to their assets. Instead, they barter Silesian coal for pigs, for example.

But the real shortages are fertilizers, pesticide and petrol, all of which are in the control of the Government. The Government can, and has, threatened to withhold deliveries if more food is not sold to the state. But it has proved to be a hollow threat. There is not enough petrol to withhold.

It is almost impossible to present to produce or import fertilizer. Yet without these fundamental supplies, farmers will not be able to do basic farm maintenance. Many tractors have been immobilized for weeks, despite special allocations for agricultural fuel. Spring sowing will be at best haphazard and the potato harvest, relatively good last year, may be again a victim of blight, unless pesticide can be found.

There is a terribly crude spiral involved. The Government cannot supply sufficient fertilizers or petrol, so farmers produce less. Because they are producing less, the farmers become more and more reluctant to sell to the state and prefer to sell on the private market where prices are better. But the consumer, defeated by the empty shops, goes to the private market to find he cannot afford to buy a 50c egg.

The result is not so much starvation as experienced in, say, Somalia or Chad, but some malnutrition. Polish television said the incidence of tuberculosis is going up and is officially admitted in Poznan, all because of protein deficiency. And there is a great uncontrollable sense of frustration and anger that will eventually seek a political outlet.

## New doubts about who gains from Britain's redrawn political map

The Boundary Commission for the new parliamentary constituencies is nearing the end of its massive task, begun in 1976. Ian Bradley explains how its work will affect politicians and electorate alike at the next General Election

The results of a meeting which begins today in Committee Room A of the municipal annex in Liverpool could well determine the political futures of the city's MPs far more effectively than any machinations by the Militant tendency or defections to the SDP.

The occasion is a public inquiry into the recommendations of the boundary commission for the new parliamentary constituencies in which the next general election is almost certain to be fought. Like other large cities which have experienced a sharp fall in population in recent years Liverpool is due for reduced representation at Westminster.

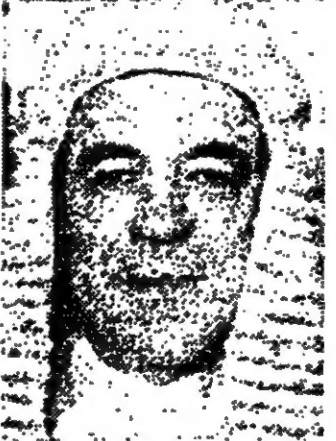
The commission's proposal is for the city's present eight seats to be cut to six. Today's public inquiry could determine exactly how that piece of surgery is to be done. On it may well depend the future political balance of the city, which at present has three Labour MPs, three Social Democrats, one Conservative and one Liberal.

Boundary changes are likely to affect more than 500 seats. With the completion of

nearly all the outstanding public inquiries next month, the Boundary Commission hopes soon, at last, to be within sight of completing what has sometimes seemed an endless task. When it began its review in 1976 it hoped to finish in 1979. Largely because of the need to wait on the deliberations of the Local Government Boundary Commission, however, it has taken much longer.

It now hopes to present its final recommendations to the Home Secretary at the end of this year. They should then go for approval by Parliament early in 1983. In fact, the commission does not legally have to report until April 1984, 15 years after the last revision of constituency boundaries.

Redrawing the political map of Britain is a complex and exacting task, the burden of which falls on 13 civil servants seconded from the Office of Population and Census Studies. They begin by setting an electoral quota, produced by dividing the total electorate in the country by the number of parliamentary seats — there



Three members of the Boundary Commission who must approve Britain's redrawn constituencies: Sir Raymond Watkin, a High Court Judge, Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons and Judge John Newey.

will be 646 seats next time, 11 more than now — which establishes the optimum size for every constituency. The quota for English seats in the present review is 65,753. Wales and Scotland are allowed smaller quotas because of their remoteness and sparsely populated rural areas.

It is the commission's job to create constituencies which are as near as possible to the quota. At present there are wide anomalies, with 11 constituencies having more than 100,000 electors, the biggest, Buckingham, which takes in the expanding new town of Milton Keynes, has 116,419 and 14 with less than

40,000 (the smallest, Newcastle Central, has 24,482).

The commission works by taking each county in turn and determining how many seats it is entitled to by dividing its total electorate by the quota. Then, using local authority wards as building bricks, it sets about constructing the required number of constituencies.

It is here that the problems really start. In addition to its prime aim of keeping as near as possible to the quota, the commission also tries to follow local government boundaries and to take notice of geographical factors, lines of communication, and industrial and social consider-

ations. It aims, wherever possible to keep natural communities together and takes considerable trouble to research such details as the catchment area for hospitals, schools and shops.

Before being published as provisional recommendations, the suggested boundary changes go before the members of the commission for their approval. For England they are Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Raymond Watkin, a High Court Judge, Judge John Newey, and Mr William Ruff, former clerk of Surrey County Council. There are also two assessors who advise

the commission: the Registrar General and the Director General of the Ordnance Survey. Normally they accept the civil servants' proposals.

The commission's provisional recommendations are often altered as a result of the public inquiries which have to be held if there are objections from local authorities or groups representing more than 100 electors. In the present review, for example, a proposal to keep Colchester as a single-borough constituency was dropped in response to local preference for a division of the town into two seats, each taking in surrounding areas. The inquiries are chaired by senior barristers whose reports form the basis of the commission's revised recommendations. It is these which eventually go to the Home Secretary.

Many of the complaints at recent inquiries have been directed at the proposed titles for the new constituencies. Several familiar names are scheduled to disappear. Michael Foot's Ebbw Vale constituency, for example, will become Blaenau Gwent, the Lowestoft seat of James Prior changes to Waveney, and Greenock, scene of recent unfraternal bickering between Labour and SDP, will become Inverclyde.

It is still too early to determine the precise shape of the new electoral map that will result from the com-

mission's final report. It is certain, however, that very few existing constituencies, probably fewer than a sixth, will survive untouched.

Several constituencies will still be some way off the quota. The Isle of Wight has been left untouched although it has more than 88,000 electors. It is too small to split in two and the only other alternative, rejected as unacceptable, would have been to detach part of the island and join it to the mainland seat.

After the boundary changes, as well as the five extra constituencies for Northern Ireland agreed by the Government in 1979, England will have another six gained from rural areas and to London boroughs over and above their strict quota entitlement.

The most striking change will be the greater representation given to shire counties at the expense of large cities. That is a straight reflection of population movement over the past decade. London will have eight fewer constituencies. Among the other inner city seats scheduled to disappear is Tony Benn's base of Bristol South East. The main gainers are the Home Counties and East Anglia.

The arrival of the SDP-Liberal Alliance has confused calculations. If the last election were to be rerun, there is no doubt that the

expected redistribution of seats would help the Conservatives at the expense of Labour.

Computer calculation by Dr Robert Waller of Magdalen College, Oxford, the Tories would have had another 40 to 45 MPs in the House of Commons.

It is difficult to predict the effects that the changes will have on the prospects of the SDP-Liberal Alliance. Mr Waller reckons that 11 of the 27 MPs at present sitting as Social Democrats could be in trouble because of boundary alterations. They include the three who represent Liverpool seats (Richard Crossman, James Dunn and Eric Ogden) and the two who sit in the shire counties (O'Halloran and John Grant). Among other Social Democrats whose seats will disappear are John Roper (Farnworth), John Horam (Gateshead West) and Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby).

On the other hand, there is no doubt that the new balance is likely to benefit from a situation where there will be so many new names and shapes for constituencies and where most existing MPs will be appealing to voters whom they have not represented in Parliament. This weakening of traditional ties and loyalties could prove an important factor in breaking the mould of British politics as changes in the party structure.

### Tinker, tailor, soldier, drunk . . .

Nothing, it seems, is what it appears to be in the twilight of the international spy novel even Irina Mamedova, the attractive, party-loving wife of the KGB's former top Washington man, Georgi Mamedov — as embarrassed FBI and State Department officials admitted publicly for the first time last week.

When Irina, aged 35, defected last year with her five-year-old daughter Tatiana, the FBI thought they had a coup. Not only was it the first defection in Washington of a senior KGB official's wife but the prospect of a capitalizing on it looked distinctly promising.

Georgi, ostensibly second secretary and assistant press attaché, turned out to be remarkably well-connected, the son of Enver Mamedov, first deputy chairman of the state committee for radio and television in the Soviet Union. An expert on the SALT 11 talks, he was, according to one State Department official, "the smartest Soviet agent in the United States."

If Georgi's wife and daughter had come over, the FBI reasoned, could Georgi be far behind? They moved Irina and Tatiana to a safe house 25 miles outside Washington and waited for Georgi to make the first move. Seven days later he did — he got on an aircraft and went back to Moscow.

The FBI, which now got down to asking Irina some pertinent questions, suggested that she had defected because she had come to appreciate the superiority of the American way of life. No, said Irina, it was not quite like that.

She had gone to the FBI, Irina said, to get away from her husband, Georgi. It appeared, had been trained in the Soviet Union for everything except the Washington cocktail circuit. Her husband, she complained, regularly came home drunk, criticized the dinner, and then beat her up.

"One minute we had a classic case of an ideological defector," a disappointed FBI official said later. The next minute it was a classic case of a battered wife."

Armed with the assurance that she would be given asylum in the United States if she requested it, Irina was then permitted to talk to two Soviet officials who promised that not only would there be no reprisals if she defected, but Georgi would be sent to Moscow but clinic and Irina would have the services of a marriage guidance counsellor.

It was an offer that Irina apparently could not refuse. She flew back to Moscow the next day. And as far as State Department officials can discern, Georgi, although damned, is still at work in the Foreign Ministry, and word has filtered out through diplomatic circles that Irina is telling friends that she hasn't had a drink since Christmas.

### THE TIMES DIARY



Hamlet, the Algonquin cat, the famous cat who has died in a New York veterinary hospital of kidney failure. A sturdy white and marbled cat, Hamlet had lived in the Algonquin on New York's 44th and Fifth Avenue for the past 12 years and was well-known to the many British actors who regularly stay in this legendary literary and theatrical haunt.

Thought to have been about 15 years old at the time of his death, he originally took up residence at the Algonquin after forsaking the wilder pleasures of New York street life.

The first signs that something might be wrong were spotted a few days ago when he took refuge under a sofa in the Algonquin's lobby and was barely able to acknowledge the greetings of Anthony Andrews and other members of a visiting party from Brideshead Revisited, currently in New York for the American launch of the series.

Much celebrated as an Algonquin character, and subject of an attractively illustrated biography Algonquin Cat (Text by Val Sheffield, drawings by Hilary Knight), Hamlet's familiar presence by the entrance of the Algonquin's crowded and hospitable lobby will be much missed.

"We are now auditioning for the next Hamlet," Mr Andrew Andrews said. "We are looking for a cat who is as deeply sad but in the tradition here at the Algonquin we must carry on."

that the real executioner was in fact another Walker, Henry, a journalist and the brother of William of the deathbed confession.

### Reith revisited

Lord Reith, father of British broadcasting, is being submitted to a cautious re-examination in a two-hour BBC play celebrating the corporation's sixtieth anniversary later this year. Roger Milner playwright whose recent television work includes a dramatized biography of the racing driver Sir Malcolm Campbell has been engaged to probe BBC archives and memories to see if he can come up with an alternative portrait to the dour autocrat that is Reith's popular image.

Milner has been consulting Reith's family, surviving colleagues and his exhaustive diaries and is hoping to discover the true story behind the director general's controversial departure from Lougham Place. He says he has already detected a trace of humour in Reith's writings and he is working on a theory that the prevalence of tall producers at the BBC is one of the most abiding legacies of its 60th founder.

### Hard pressed

The Jerusalem Post, one of the best-known English newspapers in the non-English speaking world, has run into deficit — to the audible delight of the Israeli authorities. The Post, which is half owned by the Histadrut, Israel's equivalent of the TUC,

has taken an anti-government line on economic and foreign policy ever since Mr Begin broke Labour's hegemony of the decades when he came to power five years ago.

The paper's influence is out of all proportion to its circulation — 25,000 daily and 40,000 for the bumper week-end editions — but in a country whose language is a hard-to-learn Hebrew, most foreign correspondents and diplomats read only the English paper, gaining what the Government sees as an oppositionist — and dissident — view of local conditions and opinion.

Currently marking its fiftieth anniversary (it was called the Palestine Post until 1948) the paper insists that its difficulties are not critical and can be overcome by making cuts. It lost more than £300,000 last year, about 1 per cent of turnover, and blames its plight principally on the Begin Government's inability to reduce three figure inflation.

### Verging on cheek

An attempt by Richard Branson, the head of Virgin Records and publisher of *Event*, one of a whole clutch of London weekly magazines struggling for the minds and pockets of the metropolitan young, to buy a stake in *Time Out*, his leading competitor, has failed.

Last week Branson offered to pay Tony Elliott, the editor and proprietor of *Time Out*, cash for a substantial, although minority, shareholding in a single company which he suggested could assume responsibility for publishing both magazines.



Yesterday Elliott described the offer as "very cheeky". Branson was trying to acquire equity in *Time Out* at a "cheap price". The offer did not reflect the "comparative success of the re-launch of *Time Out*."

### The gentler sex

The spectacle of nearly 300 male scientists and politicians jostling for space in a new account of the evolution of atomic energy (*The Nuclear Barons* by Peter Fring and James Spigelman, published today by Michael Joseph) is the almost total exclusion of any representatives of the "fair sex", prompts the doubtless idle speculation that the world could scarcely have become a more dangerous place had women had a more equitable hand in the development of the atom.

Simon Midgeley





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## THE PRICE OF UNITY

Mr Benn has added his voice to those calling for peace within the Labour Party. But peace at what price? He urged a meeting on Saturday of a new far-left grouping, Labour Liaison 82, to work flat out for Labour victories at the general election, the Hillhead by-election and local government elections. All very much in the spirit of Bishop's Stortford. But he also declared: "after two years of debate and discussion, we have won all the policies for which we campaigned and have made significant advances of democracy within the party". In other words, the party is being invited to unite on territory captured by the left.

This was made explicit in the statement issued later by Labour Liaison 82's steering group: "If the party unite around its policies, accepts the democratic reforms won after much debate, and continues the tradition of tolerance in the party, the Labour Party can look forward to successful campaigns in the future". Those three if's deserve some examination.

The reference to tolerance within the party is a coded warning to the National Executive Committee not to take any action against the Militant Tendency on the basis of the inquiry that the NEC has itself instituted. The far left will want extremist candidates, like Mr Peter Tatchell at Bermondsey, to be endorsed automatically by the NEC. This would mean that while unity prevailed at national level the left would be enabled to continue its campaign to extend its control of the party locally and

thereby progressively to change the complexion of the parliamentary party by selecting left-wing candidates. This is a campaign that has been deliberately furthered in particular by one of the "democratic reforms" that have been won after much debate; the requirement that there should be a full reselection process before a sitting MP is reelected. This is designed both to make MPs more susceptible to pressure from their constituency parties and to make it easier to replace a sitting member.

But it is in terms of policy that the price demanded by the far left for party unity is so significant. One of the curiosities of Labour politics since the last election has been that the public furor, both inside the party and outside, should have concentrated on changes in the party constitution, while far-reaching shifts of policy were being pushed through at the same time. The constitutional changes matter because they affect the future disposition of power within the party. But the policy positions adopted by Labour in opposition are at least as important because they are intended to determine what a Labour government would be required to do in office. These decisions can be disregarded only if it is believed that Labour ministers would be able again to wriggle out of their commitments when they were once more equipped with the prerogatives of power.

But it is an oversimplification of history to believe that this is what Labour ministers have consistently done in the past, and it is even more

## A TURNING POINT FOR KOREA?

Ever since the war left Korea divided between a Russian-supported communist government in the north and an American-supported anti-communist one in the south both halves of the country have been passionately urging reunification. The war of 1950 did not bring it about; nor did the armistice of 1953 ally suspicion enough to encourage the two governments to talk frankly to each other. In the early seventies some moves were made but ran into the ground. At that time it was Mr Kim Il Sung, the confidently self-inflating dictator in the north, who made all the running while President Park Chung Hee's response was defensive and limited. Now it is President Chun Doo Hwan, securely in power in Seoul, who is pressing for a meeting. Last week he renewed an approach he had first made a year ago, and repeated in June of last year, with more detailed proposals for a summit.

Ten years ago it was Mr Kim who insisted on a summit meeting to reach provisional agreement on some supra-national body, pending discussions on the detail, while President Park, unwilling to face such a meeting, wanted only to discuss postal services or visits between divided families with appropriate officials. From the top downwards was opposed by the bottom upwards. Now President Chun wants the summit, with a consultative

conference for reunification to draw up a draft constitution. Each side will come with their differing versions; but no matter, he seems confident that Korean nationalism will win the day. President Chun's confidence does not simply rest on the power he has secured for himself in the south, or in the undeniable economic superiority of the south over the north — that existed in President Park's day but was not enough to give him political stuffing. To understand the shift that is coming about one must read Korea in the Confucian terms which have ruled throughout its history and which survive strongly today: on which side in any conflict is the moral force perceived to exist or most convincingly proclaimed?

When Kim Il Sung seized power after the war he had grown up in an era when communist doctrine was eagerly embraced in East Asia. Mao Tse-tung and his conquering armies in 1949 added another ally to his Russian protectors. Though Kim's attempt to pull off reunification by force in 1950 failed, his confidence soon recovered in face of continuing political confusion and corruption in the south. Neither President Park's stolid rule, nor the economic growth that accompanied it, seemed to undermine his hopes. But from today's standpoint are not the fires of Mr Kim's

doctrine being doused by events? Stalin's dethronement was the first blow. The enormous capitalist success of his neighbours — Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, as well as south Korea, could not be ignored. And now China, the country in whose shadow Korea has existed throughout its history, rejects the concept of continuing revolution as the status of Mao come thudding down. The world-conquering claims of communism and its high-minded ideals prove to be hollow.

By comparison with his predecessor in the south, President Chun Doo Hwan rules with more Confucian vigour. Past corruption has been ruthlessly demolished with no eminent names spared. Recent cabinet changes have substituted capable technocrats for the remaining placemen. While the western liberal has every reason to protest at his no less ruthless suppression of opposition, he must face the fact that a view of opposition to government so deeply entrenched will be slow to change. What, it must be asked, is the Korean perception of change in north and south? Failing in health, trying to instal his son in power, disappointed in all his expectations, is the moral force any longer at Mr Kim's disposal or does President Chun seem to exude the higher ratings? It would be surprising if Pyongyang was not now the more nervous capital.

Mrs Thatcher, as we know, took that warning to heart and there would have to be very exceptional circumstances before she agreed to any coalition to survive in office that depended on a shift to PR.

Students of politics, especially those who hold strong views one way or the other on PR, should put *Why Electoral Change?* on their reading list, not because it breaks new ground or is especially apocalyptic but rather because it puts the sceptic's case lucidly, practically and fairly. It should be reckoned compulsory reading for Britain's European MPs in Strasbourg who will soon have to decide the recommendation they must make to the Council of Ministers for 1994 direct elections on a uniform system throughout the Ten. The Seidinger report, as amended by the Political Affairs Committee, proposes the West German Bundestag system reloaded so that 75 per cent of MPs would be elected by PR for constituencies and 25 per cent from regional lists cooked up by party caucuses.

The proposal is likely to get through the European Parliament and be sent up to the Council of Ministers, but a shrewd gambler would put his money on the Ten agreeing to disagree and leaving well alone, no matter what the Rome Treaty orders. In France and two or three other EEC countries the party list system is direct as a perquisite of caucus patronage, and in Strasbourg today nothing smells democratically sweeter than the British devotion to "first past the post".

*Why Electoral Change?* by Sir Angus Maude and John Smeery, Conservative Political Centre. (£2.00).

### David Wood

## Reviving the case for PR in Britain

The argument for reforming the electoral system of the United Kingdom is enjoying a mild revival here and there inside both the main political parties for an obvious reason. There could be circumstances after the next general election in which MPs of the SDF-Liberal Alliance, not necessarily very numerous, would hold the balance of power in the House of Commons and be able to choose not merely which party should form a government, but also whom among that party's leaders they preferred as Prime Minister.

After that the Alliance, assuming its MPs could amicably work together for a few weeks, would proceed to claim a share of ministerial portfolios and to dictate legislative priorities. The Alliance insists must be the condition of any coalition, would be a change from direct election on the principle of first past the post to one of the innumerable systems of Proportional Representation.

Set down in its tactical political form, the Alliance's strategy smacks more of crude blackmail than of piety about the fairness of the British electoral system. Nevertheless leaders and the rank and file of both main

## Protecting the public interest

*From the Chairman of the Wider Share Ownership Council*

Sir, You do well to criticise (even in such measured terms) the recent activities of the Monopolies Commission (leading article, January 21).

In free society the ownership of shares in a company manifestly confers the right to take decisions on the conduct of that company's business, including a decision on whether it should merge with another company. The interests of shareholders also require the maintenance of a free market, and it is in this capacity as well as in the capacity of consumers that they rightly support restrictions on the emergence of monopolies.

What shareholders cannot be expected to support is the exercise by a body which they reasonably regard as concerned with the restriction of monopoly, of discretion to protect something called the "public interest", which seems to be quite irrelevant to their own interests as shareholders, or indeed as consumers.

As you correctly intimate, the interpretation and protection of the public interest is a matter for the elected representatives of the people and should not be delegated to a body appointed by the Secretary of State. It is no reflection on the members of the Monopolies Commission to say that the decisions of such a body will inevitably reflect their own political prejudices — and, perhaps more significantly, those of the bureaucrats who write their briefs.

The interests of the shareholders of some of the companies concerned in these recent decisions may well have been upheld. There is, for instance, a strong case for saying that takeover bids rarely benefit the bidding company's shareholders, who, ironically, are often unable to influence their own directors in the matter; and it may indeed be partly for this reason that fashionable opinion has, as you say, become less sympathetic to mergers.

Neither the protection of these shareholders, however, nor the fortunes of the others involved should be dependent on what the Monopolies Commission conceive to be the public interest.

Yours faithfully,  
EDGAR PALAMOUNTAIN,  
Chairman,  
Wider Share Ownership Council,  
Juxon House,  
94 St. Paul's Churchyard, EC4,  
January 21.

*From Mr Peter Calvo Coressi*

Sir, Poland was conquered by the Red Army in 1944. The Western Allies could neither undo this fact at Yalta (1945) nor prevent it at Tehran (1943). They got Stalin to accept certain rules about administering and restoring occupied territories. This was the best they could do, but they knew, and presumably Stalin knew, that they could not enforce these rules if Stalin chose later to break them — as he did.

This is an unhappy and deplorable story, but it does not constitute a "betrayal". There was no agreement at Yalta or anywhere else to hand Poland over to Stalin. He already had it. Dredging up misinterpretations of history helps the Poles not one little bit.

Yours etc.,  
PETER CALVO CORESSI,  
Geise House,  
4 Milton Keynes,  
Buckinghamshire,  
January 21.

## Poland's story

*From Mr J. M. G. Halsted*

Sir, The problem of desecration facing Colonel Hill's parents playing golf in Tientsin (January 12) were, or still are, nothing to the hazards facing golfers at the Nanyang Club, Kismu.

"If a ball come in dangerous proximity to a hippopotamus or crocodile another ball may be dropped, at a safe distance, no nearer the hole, without penalty."

I am, Sir, etc.,  
MICHAEL HALSTED,  
4 Albert Road,  
Cheltenham,  
January 21.

## Hippo hazard

*From Mr J. M. G. Halsted*

Sir, Few university teachers will have been surprised to find (*The Times* January 18) that they occupy one of the two top places in the pay league drawn up by Labour Research on the assumption that everyone else earning more than they do is excluded from the table (The survey did not include "the really big earners such as barristers, judges, Cabinet ministers and company directors" — and no doubt also senior civil servants, MEPs, town clerks, solicitors, dentists, divers, businessmen and so forth).

Research of this sort can be a great consolation in imagined adversity. Football supporters in

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4 Albert Road,  
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January 21.

## The Japanese as war industrialists

*From Professor Michio Morishima*

Sir, Julian Amery, in your letters column of January 22, has suggested that Japan should provide massive finance in the shape of interest-free defence loans to the West. I believe that this idea would constitute a recommendation to Japan to become a war capitalist (or if Mr Amery would prefer, a defence capitalist).

If the Japanese were to receive such a recommendation, they would start to think along the lines of becoming either war capitalists or war industrialists. I would suggest that they would choose the latter course.

According to your paper (December 29, 1981) Nissan has started a new venture producing munitions. Many other big Japanese companies, such as Mitsubishi, etc., could follow suit. If this were to happen, sooner or later, they would say definitely within 10 years Japanese-made munitions would flood the world, and Western munitions manufacturers would suffer from this competition to exactly the same degree as Western car manufacturers are now suffering from Japanese competition. Therefore, Mr Amery's idea, which he puts forward as a remedy for trade imbalance, would aggravate the situation.

It seems to me that Mr Heath had a much more sensible idea in his message to Mr Suzuki, printed in your columns on June

## Output in research

*From Professor E. J. Hobsbawm, FBA*

Sir, The following data, comparing the output of scientific research originating in France, Federal Germany, Britain and Japan in 1970 and 1980, will be of interest to those concerned about the future of British research. It is based on the content-analysis of 286 scientific periodicals by a French team.

In 1970 Britain was far ahead of the other three countries, with 10 per cent of the papers in mathematics, 10.2 per cent in physics, 16.2 per cent in chemistry, 10.4 per cent in the earth and cosmic sciences and 16 per cent in the biological sciences. Only German mathematics and French physics were within reach of this order of magnitude.

In 1980 all the three other countries had improved their percentage in all the sciences, except for a slight drop in French

## Changing society

*From Dr D. M. Pallister*

Sir, Professor Westergaard's claim that the implications of social "facts" are necessarily "radical" (January 15) is as silly as the claim that they are "left wing" which was so neatly demolished by Professor Gould (January 12). And his assertion that "wholesale measures" rather than "piecemeal pragmatism" are necessary to change society is worse than silly, it is dangerous nonsense.

Popper has convincingly shown that piecemeal social engineering is the only sensible radical approach to social and political reform, since attempts to change society totally are logically impossible and lead, if pursued vigorously enough, to such horrors as were recently experienced in Kampuchea. The strength of British society has been precisely its readiness to incorporate change pragmatically and piecemeal.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID PALLISTER,  
14 Verstone Croft,  
Birmingham,  
January 18.

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Research of this sort can be a great consolation in imagined adversity. Football supporters in

## Vatican 'muddle' in London link

*From the Editor of The Catholic Herald*

Sir, The upgrading of diplomatic relations between London and the Holy See is gratifying in many ways but worrying in others. It highlights the muddles into which the Vatican can get itself when trying to act as a "state" as well as being the headquarters of a Church.

It has been stressed that the new status of the former Apostolic Delegate in London involves unreserved Vatican recognition (at long last) of British sovereignty in Northern Ireland even though ecclesiastical matters in that province will be dealt with on the Pope's behalf by the Pulpit Nuncio in Dublin.

The latter, however, is still the Holy See's representative to "the Government of Ireland", which government claims sovereignty over all 32 counties of that country. The border, in other words, remains a matter of international dispute. It is nevertheless a cardinal axiom of Vatican diplomacy to withhold diplomatic recognition to any country whose borders have not been internationally agreed and definitively settled. This is given, for example, as the reason for the Vatican's refusal to extend diplomatic recognition to the state of Israel.

Everyone knows that the real reasons (in the case of Israel) are based on politics and theology, not on any prejudice. But as this cannot be admitted, the Vatican is driven to juggling about with papal nuncios, pro-nuncios, apostolic delegates and so forth. Surely it would be more honest and dignified for the international Roman Catholic Church to abandon all pretensions to secular "statehood" and return to its original stance as a purely spiritual entity?

Yours faithfully,  
GERARD NOFL,  
The Catholic Herald,  
Lamb's Passage,  
Bunhill Row, EC1,  
January 19.

physics papers. The British percentage had fallen to 6.9 in mathematics, 6.7 in physics, 10.5 in chemistry, 9.3 in earth and cosmic sciences, and 12 per cent in biology. Britain remained an easy first in the last two, modestly first in chemistry, but had fallen to third in mathematics and physics.

These are percentages of the world output of research, of which half originates in the USA. However, the joint share of the four countries in this global total increased modestly over the decade (except for physics). This makes the relative decline of British scientific output more striking.

The above data are summarized from *Le Monde* of January 13. They deserve very serious consideration.

Yours etc.,  
E. J. HOBSBAWM,  
Birkbeck College,  
University of London,  
Malet Street, WC1.

## Corruption in Nice

*From Mr Graham Greene, CH*

Sir, After the murder of a general on the streets of Rome around Christmas, 1980, I received a telephone call here in Antibes (though my number is not in the directory), from a rather rough voice which spoke in English unflinchingly. I told the voice that I could not understand a word it said. It then asked me if I spoke French. I admitted that I could at least understand French. It then asked me in a foreign accent if I were ready to receive three members of the Red Brigades. I said, "No." He replied abruptly, "Pourquoi?" I answered: "Because I would have to leave France next day."

The Red Brigades were at that moment trying to gain press publicity. The caller was an Italian magazine was under arrest for publishing an interview with a member of the Brigades.

I reported the telephone call to a member of the Ministry of Justice, and he agreed with my impression in Italy for he was very likely as much a hide-out for members of the Red Brigades as the Basque area of France for members of ETA. The criminal milieu of Nice, a city noted for its corruption, has an Italian connexion which has led to the closing of the careers — La Méditerranée and the Ruhl, and the disappearance (and almost certainly the murder) of Mlle Roux, the owner of certain key shares in the Méditerranée.

Whether the man who spoke to me on the telephone (how did he obtain my number?) was really a member of the Red Brigades, or whether he was a member of the milieu of Nice — one of whose party members, who had been imprisoned in Italy for theft, I had to some extent exposed — I cannot be sure.

The corruption of Nice by the criminal milieu, of police officers, certain magistrates and some avocats, is a subject which has been well described in a novel by Monsieur Max Gallo. If old age permits I hope to deal with it too in a non-fiction book based on personal experience. As for the title I shall have to borrow from Zola, *J'accuse*.

Yours truly,  
GRAHAM GREENE,  
Antibes,  
Alpes Maritimes,  
France.

## Pensioners' passes

*From Mr Joseph Samson*

Sir, I see that the Government is to empower the GLC to spend £65m on pensioners' passes, but could we categorise as told how such cost is incurred?

A bus or train is a fixed unit and requires no extra staff however many people it carries. London Transport Board therefore pays no additional wages, and cannot argue that free-riding passengers take up seats which paying passengers might fill. The concession operates at off-peak periods, and during these times buses and trains would otherwise run more than half empty. Certainly the issue of passes can cost only a fraction of the sum mentioned.

By the same token British Rail could introduce a similar concession for pensioners without incurring any extra cost. This would not only be good for trade but would also attract additional fare-paying passengers.

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPH SAMSON,  
23 Pembworth Road,  
Harrow, Middlesex,  
January 18.

discriminatory practices were the strongest (wherever the ratio of wages of whites to those of non-whites was the greatest), the wage level for both whites and non-whites was likely to be lowest.

In any case we should ask: are not discriminatory practices, whether institutionalized or conscious, morally reprehensible in themselves? Surely, the resulting social good provides a strong additional, but not necessarily primary, moral incentive for eliminating discriminatory practices.

It is worth reminding ourselves that the principle of equal protection under the law derives its moral strength from its intention to prevent unfair de facto exclusion of individuals and groups from channels of opportunity. Positive discrimination aims at removing continuing de facto racial discrimination. Is it not ironic that many people, but not Professor Dworkin, now invoke this principle against attempts to remove existing obstacles to equal access to social and economic opportunities by racial minorities and women?

Yours truly,  
OSCAR WERMULLER,  
3 Church Walk,  
Oxford,  
January 14.

## Protecting the public interest

*From the Chairman of the Wider Share Ownership Council*

Sir, You do well to criticise (even in such measured terms) the recent activities of the Monopolies Commission (leading article, January 21).

In free society the ownership of shares in a company manifestly confers the right to take decisions on the conduct of that company's business, including a decision on whether it should merge with another company. The interests of shareholders also require the maintenance of a free market, and it is in this capacity as well as in the capacity of consumers that they rightly support restrictions on the emergence of monopolies.

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Chairman,  
Wider Share Ownership Council,  
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Yours etc.,  
PETER CALVO CORESSI,  
Geise House,  
4 Milton Keynes,  
Buckinghamshire,  
January 21.

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4 Albert Road,  
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January 21.

## Positive discrimination

*From Mr Oscar Wermuller*

Sir, Professor Ronald Dworkin suggests (December 12) that one cannot morally justify the use of positive discrimination on the basis of righting past wrongs suffered by racial groups, because the individuals who benefit from special preference are not necessarily those who have suffered most, and because the individuals adversely affected by such measures should not be asked to assume the burden of society's past injustice. Instead he argues positive discrimination is justified because of the future benefit to the community as a whole.

The conflict which Professor Dworkin has confronted comes down to this: on the one hand we would all like to believe that we are judged on our individual merits; on the other hand the United States experience has shown that individual positive discrimination on the basis of race (and sex) is vital to any genuine progress towards racial (and sexual) equality.

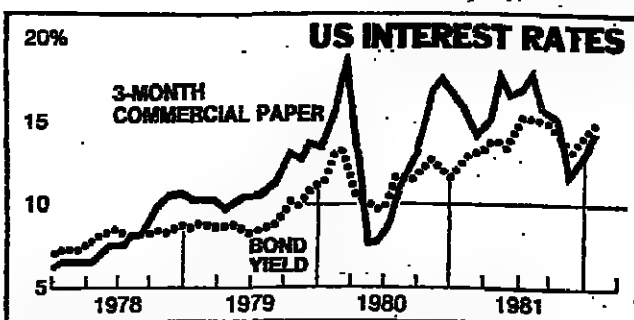
It is not sufficient, however, to argue that only the future benefit to society as a whole justifies the use of positive discrimination. Racial discrimination as a social process involves a great deal







## BUSINESS NEWS



### Europe looks to US

The extent to which European countries can lower their interest rates this spring will depend on what happens to United States rates. Presently bond markets hope for lower inflation but are worried about the prospective weight of federal funding. Short term, rates reflect uncertainty over the Fed's policy. Another disappointing set of money supply figures last Friday seems unlikely to ease nervousness.

### ACC in court today

Associated Communications Corporations will be the subject of two court actions today. The first is the continuing High Court hearing instigated by Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation to prevent the Australian financier, Mr Robert Holmes a Court, gaining victory over ACC. The other is the attempt by the Post Office Pension Fund, leading ten institutional shareholders, to stop ACC paying cash, or selling property to Mr Jack Gill, the former managing director.

### Budget plea to Chancellor

The effect of financial targets in the public sector has not been to increase efficiency but to increase prices, thereby increasing private sector costs, the Council of Mechanical and Metal Trades Associations argues in its Budget representations to the Chancellor.

The association, which represents employers in mechanical engineering and metal goods, uses Government statistics to show that the public sector has not been subject to effective incentives to improve its efficiency. Instead, it claims repeated price rises have put further strain on the private sector and it urges the Chancellor to do something to repair the damage.

### Sweet and sour

Oil-rich Arabs are spending some of their wealth on two British-made delicacies: Swiss rolls and pickled onions. More than 72,000 of the jam-filled rolls are being exported to Saudi Arabia every month by Adams Biscuits of Uttoxeter. Pickled onions are being exported by Shaws of Budeffeld.

### Quieter tractor

The Perkins diesel engine company is to spend £6m on the development of a quieter tractor engine. Perkins will set up advanced automatic machinery and assembly facilities at Peterborough, where the first of the new four-cylinder engines will be ready for worldwide sale by November.

### Efficiency up

The challenge of the recession has brought a new efficiency to many companies in the West Midlands, according to a Confederation of British Industry study. The survey of 200 companies showed that in the past two years 50 per cent developed entirely new products, 75 per cent expanded their product ranges, 49 per cent expanded exports, and 67 per cent reshuffled management systems. Significantly, only 13 per cent invested abroad to pull through the recession. A The budget offers the Government one of its last opportunities to adopt a more expansionary policy before the next election, according to stockbrokers Simon & Coates.

Business Editor, Page 13

## Labour considers new controls on planning

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Wide-ranging 'development contracts' which would give a Labour Government substantial new influence over private industry are envisaged in a policy paper to be discussed by union and party leaders today.

The proposed contracts would replace and extend the scope of planning agreements which remained a part of the last Labour administration but failed to have any real impact.

The contracts would be made with a wide range of companies, including nationalised industries, the largest British firms, and the United Kingdom subsidiaries of multinationals, by a new state industrial planning authority.

The proposals going before today's meeting of the TUC Labour Party liaison committee suggests that, with other statutory powers, discretionary price controls could be used as a 'crucial lever' to influence company policies by a Labour Government.

The confidential paper going before the committee, entitled 'Planning negotiations - The link between

industrial democracy and national planning', says: 'The ability to allow or refuse a price increase on planning grounds could provide planners with a very powerful lever over cash flow.'

The Government would use agreements signed by the new authority - the shape of which is still to be discussed by Labour and TUC leaders and could take the form of a new Ministry or a separate body - to implement the central objective, of which is said to be: '... to influence corporate decision-making in a number of key strategic areas.'

These would include purchasing policy; import penetration; investment plans; pricing strategy; product development; industrial relations and training policy.

The paper, in a series of proposals which take into account the experience of the last Labour Government and that of the national plan under Lord George-Brown in the 1960s, says that the Government would want to negotiate agreements on both the 'level and composition of corporate import spending.'

The document in this context points out that 'bargaining position' of the new planning authority would be greatly strengthened if it had the power 'to offer a measure of protection for the corporation's products.'

On investment the paper says the authority would want to negotiate with companies over the 'timing, size, location, sources of finance, and the occupational implications of the corporate investment plan.'

Although it says that Labour's emphasis has hitherto been on the need to reach agreements with larger companies there is no reason why the principle should not be extended to smaller companies 'depending on their importance to our objectives.'

The need to influence the purchasing policy of some large companies is stated in a passage arguing that industrial purchasing is a 'key determinant to the distribution of output and employment.' BL, as the paper points out, spends £2,000m a year with 7,000 companies.

## £8,400m reflation urged

By Our Labour Correspondent

The TUC is to call for a £8,400 m reflationary boost to the economy in the Chancellor's budget, followed by a sustained 4 per cent growth rate between now and 1986.

The proposal for capital investment worth £2,100 m, an increase of £4,300 m in current spending and a 2½ per cent reduction in VAT costing £2,000 m, will form a central demand in the TUC Economic Review.

A draft of the review, due to go before the TUC General Council on Wednesday, will argue that an unprecedented rate of sustained growth is required to bring unemployment down to one million by the mid-1980s.

Proposals broadly approved by the TUC economic committee call on the Chancellor to make a start on a five-year £24,000 m programme of major public

sector investment, already outlined by the TUC. The review will argue that last year's call for a £6,000 m stimulus to the economy, while derided as over-ambitious at the time of its publication, has now found favour among a wide spectrum of opposition to the Government.

The confidential draft, however, says that since last year employment has fallen steeply and there has been a further reduction in the gross domestic product of between 2½ per cent and 3 per cent with little prospect of a significant increase during 1982.

Senior union leaders know that there is no realistic prospect of the Chancellor unveiling a package anything remotely as ambitious as that which the TUC is seeking. They are nevertheless

bringing publication of the review forward in anticipation of an early Budget and will seek to maximize the degree of public debate about the economy beforehand.

The real impact, however, is likely to be on medium-term Labour Party policy in its formative stage in the run-up to the next General Election.

The TUC's emergence as potentially the main architect of Labour's economic and industrial policy in the wake of the internal conflict within the party is underlined by references throughout the review to issues already discussed by the TUC Labour Party Liaison Committee.

The review will take the line that the expansion which would be created by the TUC's budget plans for 1982 'needs to be sustained over five years'.



Mr John Abel outside the Harrogate Conference Centre yesterday

## ETB puts a £50m sparkle into resorts

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The English Tourist Board has put together a £7m investment package for a Yorkshire tourism development which is the first of a planned series of initiatives to put a sparkle back into English resorts, both coastal and inland. Overall investment could be geared up to £50m or more annually.

Leisure complexes that beat the problem of the English weather by putting a wide range of attractions, from night clubs to swimming pools, under one roof are likely to figure in the new initiative. The key elements will be putting together low-interest loans from the European Investment Bank and backing from City of London institutions

The Yorkshire scheme is at Harrogate where the near-£30m conference centre, just opened, needs a back-up of modern four-star accommodation. Construction of a 230-bedroom hotel adjacent to the conference centre will start in April, given Department of Trade approval of a £2.5m loan.

Mr John Abel, managing director of the local George Hotel company which will run the new conference centre hotel, expects to conclude negotiations for a lease on the hotel site soon with Harrogate Borough Council. A city institution has offered backing for the plan with cash also going in from the George Hotel company.

## US drive for small firms' exports

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Jan 24

The Reagan Administration is planning a new campaign to boost exports of small and medium-size companies by sending a series of trade missions abroad, led by cabinet ministers and bankers. Mr Baldrige, the Secretary of Commerce, said the results of the first mission, to Africa, which produced about a dozen multi-million dollar contracts for American companies, have convinced him to proceed with the programme.

The 14-day mission to Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Morocco was described by the White House as a 'follow up' to President Reagan's pledge at the Cancun economic summit for more direct American investment in developing countries.

The administration hopes to accomplish two goals with the new missions.

By emphasizing exports of smaller companies, it hopes to create more jobs in recession-hit communities and by sending high-ranking ministers, it hopes to improve political relations with developing countries.

Mr Baldrige said yesterday the Reagan Administration has long believed that its export emphasis should be on smaller companies which do not trade overseas.

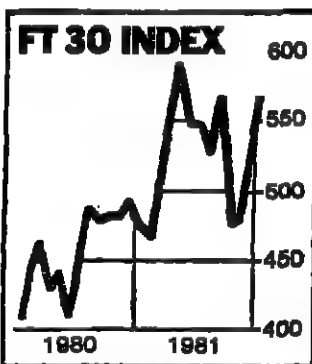
Dr Francisco Hernandez, president of Agro-Tech International, based in Miami, Florida, who appeared at a briefing with Mr Baldrige and who went on the African trip, said the mission had been a big success for his medium-size company which has annual revenues of \$60m.

He said that in 14 days, he was able to bid successfully on five projects in three countries which produced business of several million dollars for his company. It would have cost the company more than \$200,000 and up to a year's work to win the same amount of business on its own, Dr Hernandez said.

Part of the success of the first mission, and presumably those to follow, resulted from the high-level rank of participants and the carefully selected list of 26 companies.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Davy expands overseas



### LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 587.2  
FT Gilt 64.15  
FT All-share 323.39  
Bargains 23,611 (Friday's close)

Two very different pictures will emerge this week when two of the country's major engineering firms - Davy Corporation and John Brown are due to produce half year figures.

Davy will emphasize its position as Britain's largest engineering contractor with a healthy increase in profits, largely from major overseas contracts. But at John Brown problems in the machine tool division led to a Stock Exchange inquiry where five million shares were placed on sale before Mr John Mayhew-Saunders, chairman, said profits for the year would be lower. This

### ECONOMIC VIEW

Perhaps the most significant economic feature of 1981 may be what has happened to underlying trends in productivity and international competitiveness. There are hopeful signs of improvement in both.

Wednesday's publication in the Department of Employment's 'Gazette' of new figures on labour costs per unit of output for the third quarter of 1981. Keeping the rise in these costs below that of our international rivals is crucial to achieving lasting improvements in competitiveness.

Last week the Department of Employment released figures showing that unit wage costs in manufacturing rose by only 2 per cent in the year to October, down from 25 per cent rise in the third quarter of 1980.

By comparison labour costs per unit of output in other leading industrialized countries are rising at an annual rate of roughly 3 to 4 per cent on average.

The combination of a negligible rise in unit wage costs and falling exchange rate - down more than 10 per cent over 1981 - has enabled Britain to claw back perhaps 10 to 15 per cent of manufacturing competitiveness lost between the end of 1978 and early 1981. But this still leaves us 35 to 40 per cent less competitive than we were then.

Wednesday's figures will reveal how far the gains in manufacturing are reflected in the rest of the economy. In the first half of 1981 the other sectors were performing significantly worse after a better showing in 1980. The third quarter figures may see the gap narrowing again.

### BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY: Interims- Mercantile House, Palmerston Investment Trust, David S. Smith, Wm. Somerville.  
Finals- Alexander's Discount, Allied Interiors, A. Kershaw, Messitt Holdings, Rank Organisation.

TOMORROW: Interims- Sidney C. Banks, Davy Corporation, Ferguson Industrial (9 months), Hambro Trust, Macarty's Pharmaceuticals, Benjamin Priest, Somportex.

Finals: Ashdown Investment Trust, Dunbar Group, Vantage Securities, R. Kelvin Watson.

WEDNESDAY: Interims- Associated Dairies, City of London Trust, Daejan Holdings, Fashion and General Investment, R. and J. Pullman, Stewart Plaza.

Finals: Edinburgh American Assets, Edinburgh International, Scottish American Investment, Union Discount of London.

THURSDAY: Interims- Fitch Lovell, Garford-Lilly Industries.  
FRIDAY: Interims- John Brown, Longdon Industrial, Neespend.

### DIARY

Today: New vehicle registrations (December). British Aerospace roll out new Jetstream 31. Tomorrow: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (January provisional). Wednesday: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (December final). Employment in production industry (November). Thursday: Energy trends. Sales and orders in the engineering industry. Car and commercial vehicle production (December).

## EEC policy on industry urged

By George Clark

The European Economic Community will lose its credibility if it does not take urgent action on a common industrial policy, Sir David Nicholson, MEP for central London and chairman of BTR and Rothmans International, told a conference of American and European industrialists in Strasbourg.

'With 10 million unemployed in the Community, it is vital that Europe should win its share of new jobs in the new growth industries', he said.

'The answer to unemployment is not a shorter working week for the same pay, which some unions advocate. It is in reinvestment, higher productivity, retraining and flexibility.'

Progress would be helped enormously if the Community had a proper policy for industry, which recognized that employment prospects could be improved only by making industry as important as agriculture in Community affairs.

'Industry provides by far the greater part of the Community's income and its employment, yet there is no proper industry council of ministers, no industry committee in the European Parliament and no industrial development in the budget', he said.

Without action on this, the community would not only lose credibility but it could also be the failure on which the whole European enterprise foundered, he said.

## Report suppressed, wool group says

By Ronald Kershaw

Britain's wool textile and clothing industries have accused the government of dragging its feet over the publication of a damaging report which, it is claimed, highlights the sorry plight of both industries as a result of Government policies. The report is said to call for the reintroduction of some kind of industry support scheme.

Heaviest criticism, comes from Wooltex, the Wool Textile and Clothing Industry Action Committee, comprising industry representatives, trade unions, and local authorities. Milder observations come from the Confederation of British Wool Textiles, the industry's national body, whose leaders are to meet Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry on March 8.

The criticism is contained in the Werner report commissioned by the Department of Industry in 1979 to examine the growing trade deficit in wool textiles and garment making between Britain and France, Germany and Italy. The six-volume report which costs £50 was submitted to the Government last April. Wooltex claims it has been sat on by the Department of Industry since then.

Only pressure from interested MPs made the report available in the House of Commons Library last Christmas, Wooltex adds.

The Werner report also criticizes the protocol of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement No 3 due to be discussed by the

European Council of Ministers in Brussels today and tomorrow.

The Werner report compiled by the Brussels-based management consultants, Werner International, lists quite a few problems on top of MFA No 3. It finds that while the United Kingdom industry at the time of the survey was competitive in primary textiles with France, Germany and Italy, an analysis of component costs showed that 'the Continentals were paying nearly double the combined United Kingdom labour rate, and social charges, but there is no proportionate advantage visible in the United Kingdom costings'.

The report also shows that United Kingdom manufacturers faced considerable problems as a result of the changes in the sterling.

It suggested that a deficit in the balance of trade between the United Kingdom and France, Germany and Italy, resulted because Britain stuck to the bulk volume end of the market whereas the Continentals, notably the Italians and West Germans were looking at the high-quality end.

A Wooltex spokesman said: 'While they (France, Germany and Italy) were sucking in low cost imports, they were increasing exports of high value. We were sucking in low cost imports, as also high quality imports from Germany and Italy, and we were not pursuing high quality production'.

## Brussels test for new MFA

By Rupert Morris

The new Multi-Fibre Arrangement for restricting European imports of textiles and clothing will face its biggest test so far when the European Economic Community's foreign ministers meet in Brussels today and tomorrow.

British industry sources are afraid the protocol, agreed last month in Geneva, will lead to overall limits on import of shirts, jerseys, blouses and trousers being fixed too high to protect domestic producers.

They have repeatedly complained that negotiations are on the basis of the latest quota levels when most have not been fulfilled because of recession. They say new quotas will allow a much higher actual rise in imports.

The ministers will be trying to agree overall limits to establish the framework within which countries will negotiate bilaterally the quantities of imports each should take.

There is considerable disillusionment with the Multi-Fibre Arrangement. Ministers feel it goes against their free-trading instincts, but must be kept alive for the sake of marginal seats in the North-West.

Industry, on the other hand, complains that it does not provide enough protection. Employment in textiles and clothing in Britain has fallen by more than 150,000 over the past two years to about 600,000.

## Plessey may build Japanese terminal

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Plessey has concluded a deal with the Japanese electronics company Nissoku which could result in a Japanese designed computer terminal being produced in the United Kingdom bringing it into direct competition with the world's computer manufacturers.

The venture is the latest of a number of technical collaborative agreements struck between British and foreign companies wishing to exploit the opportunities presented by the liberal telecommunications market in the United Kingdom.

But the Government is seriously concerned that some areas of the telecommunications market have not been liberalized as quickly as possible. After accusations levelled at British Telecom regarding approval of equipment, like telephone handsets, temporary approval machinery was set up by the



Under pressure to agree: Mr Eric Sharp, chairman of Cable & Wireless, and Sir George Jefferson, of British Telecom.

Department of Industry. Six handset designs have been approved out of 106 applications. They will now be tested by British Telecom. Of immediate concern to the Government is the lack of any agreement between British Telecom and Cable & Wireless. Both companies have been negotiating the

terms under which C&W could link into the British Telecom with its own telecommunications network. Executives of C&W are scheduled this week to meet Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, to explain why they have been unable to reach an agreement.

It is expected that Harris Corporation of the United States which has won a contract to supply microwave equipment to British Telecom and has had its PABX design approved by the Department of Industry will soon make plans to manufacture on a large scale in the United Kingdom, possibly in Slough.

GTE/Ferranti, NEC/Redifon and ICL/Mitel are the recent examples of the partnerships.

Japanese company Iwatsu and American companies TIE and Stromberg Carlson are among those companies, including American Telephone & Telegraph (at AT) which have been taking soundings of the new market.

Northern Telecom of Canada which has been linked with GEC in the past through a collaboration on the manufacture of Private Automatic Branch Exchanges (PABXs) is also investigating the potential in the British market.

## THE HONGKONG BANK GROUP

announces that on and after

25th January, 1982

the following annual rates will apply

Base Rate . . . 14% (Previously 14½%)

Deposit Rate (basic) 12% (Previously 12½%)

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

The British Bank of the Middle East

Mercantile Bank Limited Antony Gibbs & Sons, Ltd.

## Standard Chartered

announce that on and after 25th January, 1982 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 14½% to 14% p.a.

The interest rate payable on deposit accounts subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be decreased from 12½% to 12% p.a.

The interest rate payable on High Interest deposit accounts subject to twenty one days notice of withdrawal will be decreased from 13½% to 13% p.a.

Standard Chartered Bank Limited



## BUSINESS NEWS

DE LOREAN

## Rocky road for US car suppliers

Much of the De Lorean motor company's difficulties are due to the depressed United States auto market.

Total new car sales in the United States last year reached only 8.5m units, including imports. As recently as late summer, when sales of the De Lorean sports car were just beginning on any real scale, many United States economists were still predicting a market upturn with a total annual sales value of something over 9m units.

The upturn did not materialize. Instead, sales in the first 10-day selling period of January dropped to an annualized rate of under 8m units. The record sales year in the United States market was 1973, when 11.4m new domestic and imported cars were sold.

A few days ago, Mr Michael Evans, president of Evans Economics and a noted United States economist, told the Economic Club of Detroit that he believed there would be a car sales upturn, but not until later this year. Evans said total car sales will total about 8.7m units this year, only slightly better than the 1980 total.

While the De Lorean sports car is aimed at the luxury end of the United States market, which has not been as depressed as the lower end, affluent car buyers have stayed away from sports models.

"Affluent car buyers are still out there buying cars," said a noted Wall Street automotive analyst. "However, they are not buying the toys, the two-seaters. They are buying more practical cars, like Mercedes."

According to the trade paper *Automotive News*, direct competitors of the De Lorean sports cars are having an equal amount of difficulty.

It said that sales of the Chevrolet Corvette sports car dropped by 20 per cent last year to 29,039 sales. Alfa Romeo sales fell by 23.3 per cent to just 2,301 deliveries.

Retail sales of the De Lorean sports cars to customers totalled 3,009 last year, with 644 units delivered in December. That month's sales total equaled a seasonally-adjusted annual selling rate of about 8,000 units, less than half the planned annual rate of 20,000 cars.

The prolonged US car market depression has caused a build-up in the company's unsold inventory. The company's Dunmurry assembly plant completed about 7,500 units last week.

Of those, 6,900 were shipped to the US as of December 31. 3,000 were sold to US customers, 1,400 cars or an average of four units per dealer, were at retail outlets waiting to be sold. The company said that about 1,000 units were calculated to be on ships sailing for the US ports of entry. Another 500 units were calculated to be in the US but waiting to clear customs.

That left about 1,000 units at the company's three US quality assurance centres, where the cars are prepared for delivery to dealers. Based on this information supplied by the company, *Automotive News* calculated that using the December sales rates, it would take the company 92 days to deplete the inventory.

That number is not unusually high for a small-value importer according to the trade paper. The De Lorean inventory also compares favourably with other competitive US models. *Automotive News* said there was a 133 days' supply of Corvettes on January 1, compared with a 75 days' supply one year earlier.

The trade paper also reported that all of the US domestic manufacturers had 100 days' supply with an industry average of 107 days' supply. Some General Motors models had as much as a 338 days' supply.

Sales of all imports, particularly sports models, are normally lower in the winter but generally recover in the warmer months.

According to DMC's US dealers, that pattern has held true for De Lorean cars. Although some dealers have been forced to discount De Lorean sports cars, that is to sell them for less than the \$25,000 (about £13,000) suggested price. There is not a panic developing.

Mr De Lorean and his sales and marketing lieutenants had originally expected the trendy southern Californian market and the north-eastern United States to be its main markets. However, in recent months the central area of the country, the region

hardest hit by the US economic recession, has actually been doing relatively better in De Lorean sales than either southern California or the north-east.

One large dealer from southern California said the sales job is tougher than he had expected, but said sales should pick up when the economy improves.

The dealer said that there are too many DMC dealers in his area, a common complaint among United States car dealers of all makes in some regions of the United States.

A large mid-western dealer, who said he has had no problem selling every De Lorean allocated to him, said he does not believe there is a problem with the car's value or market potential. "We are looking forward to a good spring selling season," he said. "Even in the slushy winter weather, we have been selling a few. I think the car is a good buy."

Even if this dealer's optimism is well-founded, and De Lorean sports cars sales do accelerate in the spring, the company must still finance all the cars it holds in inventory until then. That is why the company has approached the Export Credit Guarantee Department for \$70m for its financing.



John De Lorean: Selling in a depressed market.

## ACCOUNTING

## New round of standard setting

With the furore over Statement of Standard Accounting Practice (SSAP) 16 on current cost accounting having all but subsided, Britain's accountants are set to embark on a new round of standard setting.

Current cost accounting infuriated many company chairmen and even some accountants, but recent figures, which show that around 90 per cent of listed companies complied with the standard, have been interpreted by the profession as firm evidence of the standard's general acceptance.

And today, a discussion paper has been released on how to show corresponding amounts and five and 10-year summaries of results on an inflation-adjusted basis.

According to the Accounting Standards Committee, whose role is to oversee accounting developments, new rules for preparing inflation-adjusted summaries will stop companies giving their shareholders and the public misleading ideas about their performance.

Sales figures which show substantial increases every year when prepared under historical cost for example, can actually show a sales volume decline when prepared under the current cost convention. ASC also plans to introduce the requirement for CCA figures in half-yearly results. SSAP 16 is up for review in about two years and was introduced only for

a three-year trial period. A grass-roots movement to overthrow the standard led by two Sussex-based chartered accountants has failed to gather support, mainly because most accountants want to let SSAP 16 run for its trial period.

A major part of ASC's work in 1982 will be to resolve the various conflicts between accounting standards and the 1981 Companies Act.

Chief among these is the last-in, first-out technique for valuing stock included in the law and the quite contrary first-in, first-out method embodied in SSAP 9.

Another problem is the increasingly wide limits companies have been using to define an extraordinary item. In SSAP 6, extraordinary items should be included in the profit and loss account below the line of pretax profits. But companies have been defining charges in their accounts which should correctly be included above the line as extraordinary and so have made comparisons between companies more difficult.

ASC also thinks 1982 will be the year of the pension. Two closely related projects, on accounting for pension costs in company accounts and on accounting for pension funds, will dominate part of the year since both are highly complex. Unfortunately the accountants and actuaries who

control pension fund accounting are separated by a substantial gulf of understanding.

Where accountants want to treat pensions as part of an employee's wage and accrue it month by month and year by year until it becomes payable, actuaries maintain that as long as there are enough funds available to pay pensions as they fall due, that is all that is necessary. A big educational effort to bring the two sides closer to each other is likely to get under way in the spring.

Other issues include accounting for foreign currency translation, accounting for leasing and accounting for segmental reporting.

Others include a standard on accounting for acquisitions and mergers and charities. A work is also due on accounting for business closures and depreciation.

The often imperceptible trend towards international convergence in accounting will be demonstrated in the spring when British, American and Dutch accountants meet under the chairmanship of a French accountant to discuss deferred tax.

The motivation here has been the introduction of investment incentives in the United States and the growing feeling that a tax provision should be made for them.

Drew Johnston

## FINDHORN COMMUNITY

## 'Theory Z' from a caravan site

If you can imagine the most incongruous place in the world to come across an advanced mutant of the very latest American management technique, it could be a caravan site on what used to be a rubbish dump near Inverness.

The technique concerned is very similar to one adapted from the Japanese by far-sighted managers. It has been labelled 'Theory Z' by Professor William Ouchi, who has analysed how many leading American and Japanese companies have used it to build successful consultative relationships between every level of management and the shop floor — in other words an open system, where threat is replaced by trust and consultation.

The caravan park is the home of the Findhorn Community, where they live an "alternative" style that might be thought by most British executives to be very different from the life of their own dear managing director. However, when inspected more closely, it is evident that something interesting is going on here. This something is in fact highly relevant to British business — now based so frequently on a hierarchical system that not only divides white collar from blue but also divides work itself into little boxes, self-contained but hardly self-fulfilling.

Findhorn was developed by a single family, the Caddys, as something of a spiritual experiment in self-sufficiency. After 20 years, it has now developed into a group of some 200 people who are developing a distinct philosophy of their own and at the same time running an extremely successful business.

The community's main purpose is educational, and it runs courses on horticulture, the arts, personal growth and management.

However, a number of associate entrepreneurs have recently set up separate organizations — such as an award-winning greeting card business and a home insulation company. Others have joined the community but maintained their businesses as separate entities.

One of those who have been drawn into this network is Mr Alan Jacobsen, who is starting regular management courses for chief executives and others where this Findhorn principle of growth through cooperation, rather than conflict, will be taught. Mr Jacobsen himself was retained by the NEDC and worked successfully to improve productivity in the footwear industry along the lines of the Findhorn principle.

The active principle is based not so much on worker participation as on the co-creation of success, with the

whole workforce being actively engaged towards this aim. The course explores different styles of management and teaches the effective channelling of human energies at work, by a combination of lectures, discussion groups and role-play.

In a nutshell, what is happening in Findhorn is a very decentralized and democratic process, based on a communal consensus. Each group and department has to stand on its own feet — spiritually, financially and administratively — though with support always available from the centre, a small core group of ten which is the main executive body. Core group decisions have to be backed by a representative body of the whole community which determines and monitors the common will.

Francis Kinsman

## CAPITAL MARKETS

## Rise and rise of the zero coupon

It is two decades since the Euromarkets leapt to prominence, but their ingenuity never ceases to amaze.

The latest offering in these difficult times is zero-coupon bonds. The holiday festivities were barely over when borrowers rushed to market with this new instrument. There are now a dozen zero-coupon bonds on offer, and more are expected. When pricing ordinary coupon is very hard and the market is nervously watching the Federal Reserve's money supply and interest rates, such bonds are attractive. The logic of high and volatile interest rates is to turn to capital gains.

That American corporations should have dominated the market so far is therefore significant. Household names such as Dupont, Caterpillar, Sears Roebuck, Citicorp, J. C. Penney, Zerox and Bear Stearns are among the borrowers. But other nationalities, Canadians being the most likely, are expected to follow soon.

The attraction of these so-called "deep discount" bonds is obviously greater for high-income tax payers. In most cases the paper is offered at less than half par value.

Japanese and Swiss institutions, both parties accustomed to low domestic interest rates, are said by dealers to have been major customers. But other private investors are benefiting from an international trend towards favouring capital gains against income.

There are advantages for borrowers as well. A crucial element in the art of successful Euromarket placing is fine-tuning the issue to accord with interest rates and investor sentiment at the moment of placing.

Zero-coupon bonds do not eliminate the problem altogether because a discount still has to be set. But some bankers argue this is easier than guessing interest rates.

The borrower may also be tempted by the completeness of a zero-coupon issue. Once it is made all he has to do is spend the proceeds until redemption time comes around. There is no interest to pay, and by the same token no continuing need for foreign exchange.

But that does not explain why the market has to date been exclusively American. One possible explanation is that many American corporations have borrowed heavily from the short-term market because it was hoped that long-term interest rates would fall.

They have not, and so these companies are trying to balance their borrowings by turning to the Euromarkets. Zero-coupon bonds in present conditions are the cheapest way of making the adjustment.

Wall Street investment bankers were quicker to spot the opportunity than many of their European counterparts. Though it is true that Credit Suisse First Boston was the pioneer, bringing Pepsi Cola to market last October, it was Morgan Guaranty, Morgan Stanley and above all Salomon who exploited the market.

Despite being as much as 100 basis points cheaper than straight Eurobonds, zero-coupon bonds have their drawbacks.

First, as Beneficial Finance discovered with its \$150m offering, extra incentives may be necessary. Beneficial added a bondholder's option to redeem the eight-year bonds in five years at 67.20 against an issue price of 32.70.

Second, even though the issues are selling well, dealers are reluctant to quote less than 50 basis points between bid and offer prices.

The difference this can make to yields is considerable. At one stage Dupont's \$300m issue was being quoted at 32.25 bid and 33 offered, giving yields of 15.19 per cent and 14.86 per cent respectively.

Michael Prest

## INTERNATIONAL



## WEST GERMANY

● Herr Heinz Ruhnau has been named Lufthansa's next chief executive from the middle of this year after a bitter struggle for power between the Bonn government, as represented on the company's supervisory board, and the airline's management in Cologne. Herr H. Ruhnau, until now state secretary in the Bonn transport ministry, was appointed at the weekend to the company's managing board with a view to becoming chief executive at the beginning of July in succession to Herr Herbert Culmann, who has held the job 10 years. His appointment was approved on Friday by the necessary two-thirds of the 20-strong supervisory board, but only because he cast his vote for himself. Four board members worked for him in the Bonn transport ministry and two others abstained.

● West German officials dismissed as unrealistic a Soviet minister's pledge that the Siberian gas pipeline will be built ahead of schedule despite United States sanctions.

● Registrations of new motor vehicles in West Germany fell to 164,000 in December, 10.6 per cent below November but 5.4 per cent above December 1980. Car registrations fell 11 per cent from November to 145,700 but rose 4.8 per cent on December 1980.

## JAPAN

● The EEC today starts trade talks with Japan before an expected announcement by the Japanese government of a series of measures to open the Japanese market to more foreign products.

● Mr Takashi Ishihara, president of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, has indicated willingness to hold 1982 car exports to the United States below the 1.68m set for last year. Mr Ishihara, who is also president of Nissan, was expressing a personal view.

## UNITED STATES

● Ford and General Motors, the top two American car makers, will cut production in the next few weeks because of continued depression in the new-car market.

● Chrysler Corporation has announced that its St Louis assembly plant will shut this week and about 2,200 workers will be laid off temporarily.

● The United States is inviting officials of the European Economic Community to Washington for consultations on complaints of unfair trade filed by United States steel-makers.

## SPAIN

● Spain is seeking a large Eurocredit of about \$400m — \$500m from international bankers, banking sources said in London. The loan will probably carry an eight-year maturity, with an interest rate spread of 1/2 per cent above London Interbank Offered Rates.

● Spanish car production fell in November, to 78,030 from 98,790 in the same 1980 month and 84,970 in October, the Spanish Car Manufacturers' said in Madrid. Domestic sales fell to 35,720 from 45,670 and 37,160 respectively, while exports dropped to 30,650 from 42,930 and 41,040.

## ITALY

● The 136-nation International Fund for Agricultural Development has chosen Rome as its permanent headquarters in preference to Istanbul. Contributions promised at a meeting in Rome of its governing council will enable it to resume funding its operations after resources ran out four months ago.

## AUSTRALIA

● New South Wales, one of Australia's main industrial states, is facing renewed power restrictions because of the effects of the continuing strike by coal miners.

## INDIA

● Mr A W Clausen, World Bank president, has praised India's economic development, especially in agriculture, and assured the Indian Government in New Delhi that the bank's total assistance to the country would continue at almost the present level. There were some earlier rumours of the aid being cut.

## KENYA

● The Sheraton Hotel group is to build a 27-floor \$50m hotel in Nairobi. The hotel will become the African headquarters of the Sheraton Organization, which already has eight hotels in Egypt, six in West Africa two in Tunisia, and one in Djibouti. It also has plans for hotels in Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Kenya's coast province.

## Williams &amp; Glyn's

## Interest Rate Changes

Williams & Glyn's Bank announces that with effect from 25th January 1982 its Base Rate for advances is reduced from 14½% to 14% per annum

Interest on deposits at 7 days' notice is reduced from 12½% to 11½% per annum.

WILLIAMS &amp; GYLN'S BANK LTD

## Midland Bank Interest Rates

Effective from 25th January 1982.

## Base Rate

Reduces by ½% to 14% per annum.

## Deposit Accounts

Interest paid quarterly on 7 day deposit accounts reduces by ¾% to 11½% p.a. APR 12.0%.

## Abatement Allowance

On ledger credit balances of current accounts which are subject to the standard personal current account tariff and do not qualify for free terms reduces by ½% to 7½% p.a.

**Midland Bank**  
Midland Bank Limited

## KELSEY INDUSTRIES LTD.

Statistics from the Report of the Chairman, Mr J. G. Moss, and the accounts for the 12 months to 30 September, 1981.

	1980/81 £000	1979/80 £000
Turnover	22,132	24,771
Direct exports	7,013	8,258
Profit before tax	1,402	2,842
Profit after tax	828	1,524
Ordinary dividends	307	307
(32%)	(32%)	
Total funds retained	1,091	2,651
Net assets	11,066	9,928
Earnings per share	17.6p	35.7p



## BANK OF SCOTLAND

## Base Rate

The Bank of Scotland intimates that, as from 25th January 1982, and until further notice, its Base Rate will be decreased from 14½% PER ANNUM to 14% PER ANNUM.

LONDON, BIRMINGHAM & BRISTOL OFFICES — DEPOSITS

The rate of interest on sums lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be 12% PER ANNUM, also with effect from 25th January, 1982.



BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Don't touch a lock of her hair



Locksmith Marie Ann Banham, 66

Reader Mr Joseph Samson of Harrow, north London, just had to write a letter to "People" so pleased was he with Banham Patent Locks Ltd.

"In 1949", Mr Samson wrote, "I had the firm's locks fitted in my house. When, this year, he ran low on keys, he wrote off to the company in the 'fortiori hope' of being able to order some more."

Although the locks were obsolete, Banham made new blanks and within two weeks he had a fresh set, free. "How many firms today," crowed Mr Samson, "can offer such a free service 33 years after the original order was placed?"

Mr Samson does not know the half of it. They keep time in its place at Banham's Kensington headquarters. The managing director, for instance, is a mere child of 86, Mrs Marie Ann Banham.

"Mrs B" to the staff, she opened her first business, a gown shop in Brixton, when she was 17. "I always ran my shops differently to anybody else. I had a door-tailor and dressmaker, because every time you got a good number and it was selling well, you'd ring the wholesaler and they'd say 'Oh, we're on our spring collection now' — and this might be in November."

By the 20s she was married to Mr William Banham, publisher of a racing guide. They now had a gownshop in the West End, in Shaftesbury Avenue.

After a break-in Mr Banham set to thinking how much safer the gownshop would be if there were a lock that enabled them to bolt the door inside as they turned the key from the outside on their way home.

He got talking with his sister's brother Leon, who was good at clocks. They came up with what, much modified, is today called Banham's New Security Latch and Door Bolt.

In 1928 Mr Banham began the lock business on the top floor, with Mrs B continuing to sell gowns on the ground floor. In 1945 the Germans scored a direct hit on their one lunchtime and they were buried for nine hours.

When he died in 1951 Mrs B hung up her tape measure and took over the lock business.

That she is still there is not for lack of heirs. Three of the seven children are in the business, Mr Peter, Mr John and Mr Gary as well as grandson Mr Charles.

"I just can't live without work," says Mrs B. "I'm a workaholic, really. I have a sister, Margaret, that worked in the business as well, and she was always threatening to retire, because we're a shocking lot to work with. ... she retired two years ago (at 89) and she's never left off moaning 'Oh, don't retire, you don't know how terrible it is. She doesn't even have to tell me. Do you know I don't even go on holiday?'"

As with the gownshops, so with the security business, service is the key — only this time it is 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The firm never advertises, winning customers by word-of-mouth, and claims never to lose one, for as Mr Peter says: "We will put ourselves out where other people won't."

Banham today is a business with 350 staff, a turnover of £2m, a big factory in Nine Elms, and in Fulham, a four-storey "central station" sleeplessly monitoring customers' alarms.

And this morning Mrs B will be at work. She lives just up the road from the singleton shop. "I get in about ten, but on the way I always get a lot of grub for the staff in case they get hungry. I think if you feed them they keep on working."

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr C. P. Fowler will succeed Mr John Haggis as managing director of Newmarket Microsystems, a member of the Cambridge Electronic Industries Group. Mr Fowler joins CEI from the British Technology Group where he was assistant divisional director of the computer and electronics division. Mr John Haggis will become managing director of Pye RF Systems.

Mr Roger Barracough has been appointed administrative director of the Delson Companies. Mr Peter Withers has been appointed a director of Unifile Assurance Services.

Will 1982 be the year when the Government brings back credit controls? The idea is right out of line with the changes made in the running of monetary policy in recent years.

But its plausibility is increased by two powerful facts. The first is that the Government is faced with an increasing conflict between its hopes of economic recovery and its commitment to tight control of sterling M3.

The second is that it wants to get out of this problem without recourse to the obvious solution available to it under the current regime, the use of sharply higher interest rates.

If price cannot be used as a way of sharing out the scarce resource of money, then maybe rationing will be needed.

An argument in favour of the likelihood of controls is the action of the Bank of England when presented with the big increase of bank lending for house mortgages. Last week it stepped in to warn the High Street clearers to be much more careful to ensure that lending ostensibly for this purpose was actually used to buy houses and not to finance general consumption.

The gains from ending a situation where industry cannot afford to borrow to invest because private consumers are borrowing to buy Japanese imports are obvious.

As the year goes on, we might see the use of the Bank's power of guidance to channel funds by its traditional system of nods and winks. The problem for the authorities is obvious.

Bank lending to the private sector is running at about £100m a month. This is roughly twice as much as is consistent with the money supply growing in line with the government's target.

What happens if interest rates fall? As we have discovered over the past two years, the demand for money is a more complex phenomenon than for most goods. As interest rates rise, there can actually be a short-term

increase in the money which many companies need to borrow. This is because the borrowing figures include interest rate bills in many cases. Lots of firms just add on their interest charges to the amount they have borrowed from the bank.

But this is just one factor in the total amount which is borrowed. Companies also need money to finance stocks and to fund expansion. So although a drop in interest rates will reduce one component of bank lending, other aspects of demand for money by companies will be boosted if interest rates fall.

There are obvious attractions and dangers in this. The attractions are that any recovery can be concentrated in rebuilding industry, rather than being focused on consumption, much of which goes on imports. The gains from ending a situation where industry cannot afford to borrow to invest because private consumers are borrowing to buy Japanese imports are obvious.

It is noticeable that many other countries, including France under President Giscard d'Estaing, have tried to protect industry in this way.

It is no wonder that there are so many anecdotal accounts of people asking builders for inflated bills for work to justify big mortgages.

There are, however, equally obvious costs. Some of these are political. The change would involve greater intervention by the authorities to decide just what categories of lending ought to be favoured, something

which is out of line with Government thinking. There are economic drawbacks as well. Any system of control automatically breeds avoidance. With more than 600 banks in the United Kingdom, the scope for this is immense. The big increase in house mortgage lending gives us a taste of just how difficult it can sometimes be to know the exact use for which borrowed money is intended. Throughout 1981 we saw strong competition in the mortgage lending field, which was one of the main growth areas for the banks. Yet the fall in house prices shows us clearly that the cash was not being used to fund a house price boom.

What seems to have happened is that the property price increases expected in the spring did not happen. Some people moved house but paid less for their new residence than they expected; others did not move at all but borrowed money for home improvements.

Either way, they found themselves able to borrow more money from the bank than they needed to finance their home purchase. This was very convenient at a time when living standards were starting to fall, for mortgages are ideal money to borrow. The interest rate is usually well below that charged for conventional loans and it will fall if general interest rates fall.

Much of the interest bill is likely to be deductible against tax and the pain of the repayments is eased by spreading them over a very long period.

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Credit controls: will the Government bring them back?

David Blake

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those sectors which are not regulated. The key question here is whether the leakages are great enough wholly to undo the gains. There is no reason why they should be in the sense that controls could ensure that a higher proportion of funds went into industrial lending and that consumer lending were kept in some kind of check.

Specific measures to restrict lending for consumption look the most likely way of action if the authorities decide to do something. Prospects for general controls on the total of bank lending rely on a different calculation than the split between the various kinds of lending. They depend on the view that if the Government wants to choke the total level of bank lending down to that required by its medium-term financial strategy it really has no choice but to go down the controls path.

On most calculations, controls look the only way in which the government could hope to achieve its targets.

The monetary targets leave so little room for bank lending growth that it would require interest rates far higher than anything we have experienced to choke it off. On most calculations, controls look the only way in which the Government could hope to meet its targets.

One mistake which no one ought to make is to assume that they represent a painless way of achieving those targets. The problems come because there is a fundamental incompatibility between the allowed growth in sterling M3 and the hope for recovery.

There is no way of cutting down consumer borrowing without cutting down consumption also. If consumption falls, output will not go on rising. There are perfectly respectable reasons for looking again at using credit controls to help manage monetary policy. These arguments are likely to attract increasing attention over the year ahead as the Government tries to reconcile a pick up in output with monetary restraint. But no one should be deluded into thinking they provide a free solution to the problems facing the economy.

Certainly, there can be no question of a further tightening of policy in an unrealistic attempt to speed up the process of reducing inflation. That would merely abort the present fragile recovery and risk inducing a potentially more dangerous second leg to the recession (not to mention of course a fresh round of potentially crippling inflation within the Tory party).

In that sense, the Government is going to have to accept that the process of reducing inflation without a general incomes policy cannot be hurried — and that if it is running out of time, the blame in part

attaches to its own budgetary mistakes when it first came into office. But the risks involved in anything more than a modest reflation will almost certainly be deemed to be just as great. One of the key arguments put in support of more significant reflation this year is that it would not make a great deal of difference to inflation prospects.

On the domestic front, it is argued, the high level of unemployment and the continuing international pressures on some sectors of industry significantly reduce the possibility of a fresh upsurge in wage costs.

The danger of imported inflation is allegedly reduced by the greater attention being paid to exchange rate policy and the greater readiness to use the reserves to support the pound.

I doubt that the Government will swallow either argument. On the first count, it probably considers that the improvement in corporate profitability already envisaged poses potential problems on the pay front next winter. On the second count, its view of exchange rate policy and the use of reserves may not be quite as dominant as some may suppose.

There is much greater emphasis being placed on exchange rate considerations, and there is indeed a much greater willingness to use the reserves for medium-term smoothing. But those responsible for managing the exchange rate would not advocate the use of reserves in support of an exchange rate target they felt to be inconsistent with domestic policy.

On those grounds alone, they can be little prospect of the Government considering significant reflation.

The bottom line of the matter would seem to be that while the Prime Minister and the Chancellor have become more flexible in their tactical approach, they remain determined to stick to their basic strategy of running a tight ship. In that sense the forthcoming Budget is not perhaps quite so critical as it might appear.

The emphasis this year, then, looks likely to remain on keeping the prospective FSBR to a size that the Chancellor feels will allow a progressive downward movement in interest rates — overseas developments permitting. He may even be in a rather more realistic position now to fulfil his 1980 hopes of seeing the long-term corporate debt market reopened and the fundamental monetary situation correspondingly improved.

Business Editor No great reflation in sight

It may only be January but the fact of the matter is that it is a mere six weeks until the Budget — March 9 being the appointed day. Whether this is to be the final Budget speech Sir Geoffrey Howe delivers — on the assumption that there will be a further and final Cabinet reshuffle this year — remains to be seen.

But whatever the speculation on that score, the conventional wisdom is that this is a critical Budget for the Government politically.

That is a view that rests on the assumption that the Government's re-election hopes, whether the election comes in autumn 1983 or spring 1984, depend crucially on a significantly improving trend on the employment front. And that, it is argued, will not happen unless the Chancellor starts to open the regulator from the spring of this year.

Whether that is a correct political prognosis is a moot point. One could equally well argue that the votes of the unemployed are already lost to this government, if it ever had them anyway, and that its own interests depend far more on being able to buy the hearts of those still in employment with substantial tax give aways in 1983.

But politically acute as the Prime Minister undoubtedly is, I doubt that she approaches the problem from either of these standpoints. Though she clearly wants to see an improving employment situation and more money left in the individual's pocket, she believes that the national interest and her own political interest run down the same track in first demanding lower inflation and consolidation of the painful progress towards a more efficient and more competitive economy.

So, with inflation still likely to be of the order of 10 per cent this year and our recent recovery in international competitiveness rapidly slowing down the question before her and the Chancellor is the course they should adopt from here on.

Certainly, there can be no question of a further tightening of policy in an unrealistic attempt to speed up the process of reducing inflation. That would merely abort the present fragile recovery and risk inducing a potentially more dangerous second leg to the recession (not to mention of course a fresh round of potentially crippling inflation within the Tory party).

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by economists outside the Administration. The clash between a growing economy — stimulated by midsummer tax cuts and the state of Mr Reagan's defence build-up and slow money growth made this a virtual certainty.

However, even the pessimists did not expect rates to start climbing again from such a high level, and while the economy is still in the depths of recession. Although the prime interest rate has come down quite substantially from a peak of 15.75 per cent last summer to 15.75 per cent, long term rates are now back to close to last year's peaks, new Treasury bills are 12.5 per cent, up 2 percentage points from their December lows, while mortgage rates are still over 17 per cent. If there is no further decline, particularly in mortgage rates, then the hoped-for recovery may not even materialize, let alone be vigorous enough to reduce unemployment.

Senior Fed officials think that the fall in short term rates could well be over already. They are believed to be puzzled by the acceleration in the money supply late last year. When the economy is weakening, as it was in November and December, money expansion usually slows as loan demand falls off. But unless the next few weeks bring a quick reversal of the trend, the Federal Reserve is set to tighten up again on the supply of credit to the markets.

Even without the incentive of apparently surging money growth, the Fed was thinking of putting on the brakes. Senior officials apparently were wary of letting rates fall too sharply and thus risking a repeat of 1980. In that year there was a steep drop in the economy, accompanied by such a swift decline in interest rates that the economy bounced back sharply, and rates soon started to climb again. The money supply also accelerated rapidly in the recovery.

The Fed did not relish the thought of a very rapid recovery spurred by lower interest rates running into a severe money constraint and sharp rises in interest rates just before the congressional elections in November of this year. Officials preferred the prospect of a slow and gentle recovery, perhaps accompanied by still-declining long term interest rates, and improving inflation.

Some observers believe that this may still be possible. Long term interest rates do not yet reflect the slowdown in inflation in the last year, they say, and so could fall substantially when the market finally recognizes that underlying inflation is only about 8 per cent to 9 per cent.

But a gentle recovery would not do much to bring down unemployment from its present rate of nearly 9 per cent.

America's see-saw money puzzle

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK: U.S. INTEREST RATES

By Caroline Atkinson

different measures of the money supply, but most of the important ones have had to be defined and redefined in the last two years to keep up with financial innovations. The monetarist policy which has let interest rates rise swiftly on unregulated savings instruments, has for example also led to a blurring of the distinction between current and deposit accounts, and to a spectacular rise in new forms of saving which escape the interest rate limits on conventional bank and savings and loan deposit accounts.

Monetarism is apparently not as easy in practice as in theory on this side of the Atlantic either. In America, as in Britain, the monetary authorities are trying to fight inflation through restricting the money supply. So far they have been more successful in hitting their annual targets for money supply growth than has the Bank of England. But from week to week and quarter to quarter there have been large fluctuations in the money supply which the Federal Reserve Board has been unable to predict, explain or control.

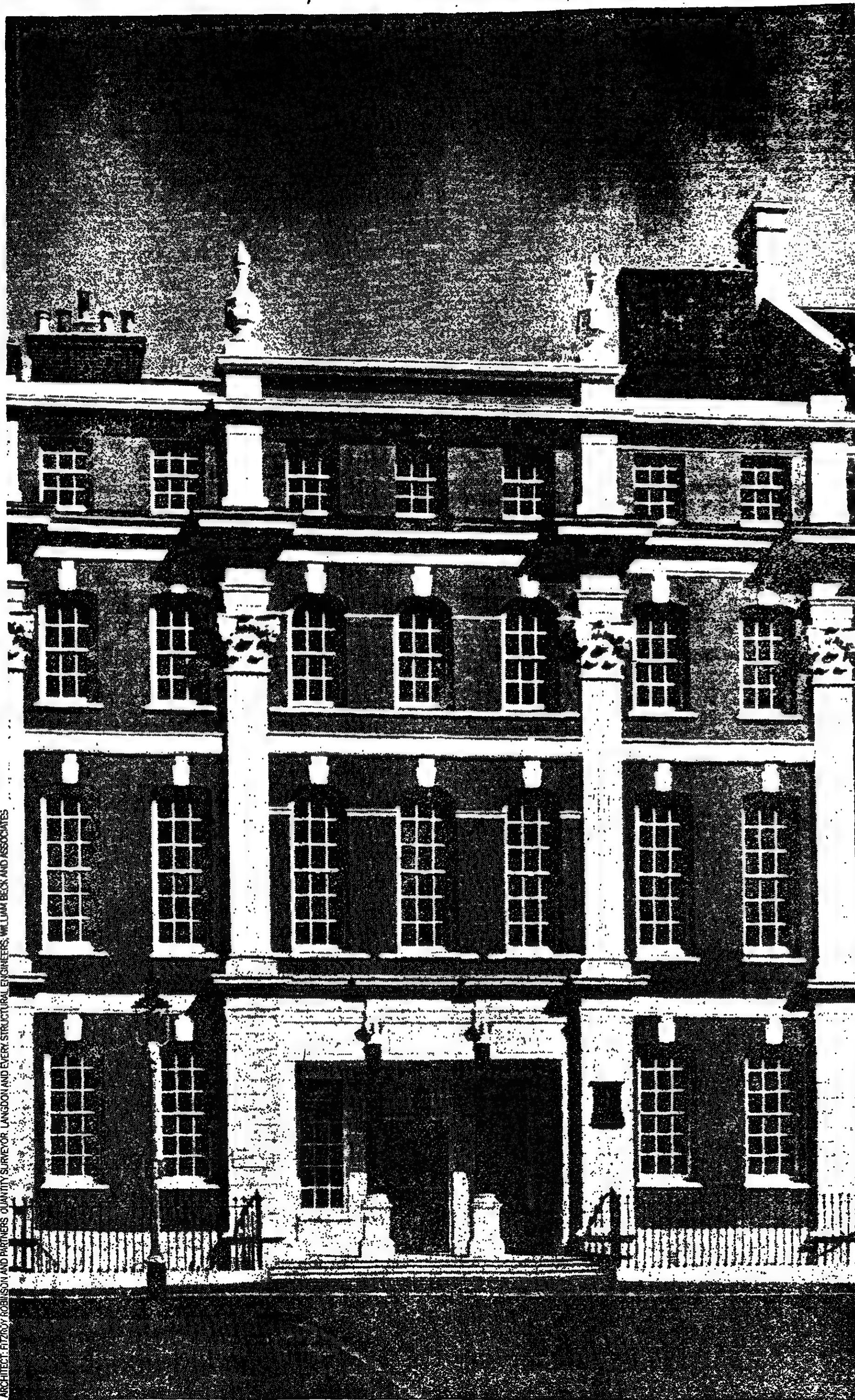
Last year, for example, the money supply first expanded at an annual rate of more than 100 per cent for a few months, then grew by less than 2 per cent at an annual rate from the beginning of April to the end of October, and finally jumped ahead in November and December at an annual rate of more than 12 per cent. The pattern in 1980 was just as erratic.

Since the Federal Reserve switched its policy in October 1979 from one of controlling interest rates, to controlling the money supply directly, there have been wide swings in interest rates as well as in the money supply. This volatility may be an important reason for the generally high level of American interest rates, according to research from the private economic forecasting group Data Resources Inc.

Some monetarists in the Administration still believe that the Fed could make the money



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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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## Cassells adds further chapter to Oxford's fairy story

## The Watford gap is narrowing

Improved in technique through practice.

Their basic aim is still to transfer the ball promptly to where it hurts most, the opposition's penalty area, but they do so with more accuracy now. They also use it with greater cunning when it arrives, witnesses Callaghan says.

"The skill and knack of Watford's teenage wingiers, Callaghan and Barnes, in crossing a good ball into the goal was one of the instrumental in Watford's success. It was no coincidence that both were named in the match week bookend. And in the middle, Martin, the new England center half," was disturbingly disturbed by the two.

The first goal, after 47 minutes, was a concoction of these trouble-home elements. Barnes made room for the cross, Callaghan headed it over the bar, and Barnes scored from the rebound.

**WATFORD:** C. Shepherd, P. Price, J. Hargrave, D. Williams, M. Martin, G. Callaghan, A. Armstrong, J. Jenkins, R. Barnes, B. Davies, S. Brewster, W. Evans, J. Hooper, T. Jones, J. Pearson, J. Phillips, J. Thomas, J. Watson (ALMA).

## Leeds get no more than they deserve

Hoodie provided a silver lining to the dark clouds by giving some telling passes which deserved a better response. On acquiring 50-yard through balls from the right, he set-back and cleared Burns and Bart to leave Falco with an open goal but the chance was squandered.

Just when it seemed that Leeds would draw their level, came for Hazard, an effective substitute, centred well from the right to Galvia who laid the ball back for Crooks to drive in. Steve shot that touched Leung on the way in.

**TOTTENHAM:** In the first half, Clough had a good start, but his side were out of sync. A few minutes later, Alan Pardoe scored a brilliant goal. The second half was more of the same. Clough's side were again out of sync. Alan Pardoe scored another brilliant goal. The game ended 2-0 to Tottenham.

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool took the lead in the first half. The second half was more of the same. Liverpool won 2-0.

**SUNDERLAND:** Sunderland took the lead in the first half. The second half was more of the same. Sunderland won 2-0.

## Youth has its rewarding fling for Coventry

[illegible]

## Sirrel with the waggly tail

[illegible]

## Weekend results and tables

COMB DIVISION		CLARKSON		CLARKSON	
Barnes 3		Barnes 3		Barnes 3	
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FOURTH DIVISION		CLARKSON		CLARKSON	
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## Sunderland take defeat too diffidently

By John Doughty  
Sunderland 0 Liverpool 3  
Only an incorrigible optimist would have expected Sunderland to beat Liverpool, the favourites, in the fourth round of the FA Cup, but what depressed their supporters was that they were resigned, almost inevitable manner in which the home side, after conceding two goals, splendidly taken by the visitors, to concede a third quarter of an hour. At this point the contest virtually ended, although there was a brief flurry of play, which was over very early in the second half after they had substituted their hapless captain and centre half, Clarke, for the second half goalkeeper, Grubbs. Grubbs, a Liverpool-made, criticized goalkeeper, made a spectacular save from McCois to

## Statham earns Allen's special accolade

By Paul Newman

Gillingham 0 West Bromwich 1

In a sport where managers are hardly renowned for understatement, Ronnie Allen's post-match comment that he was "the best member of my team as "the best football player in England" would normally have been taken as a joke. But not this time. After the performance of the individual in question, however, no one was going to contest the West Bromwich winger's claim.

Mr Allen, who was referring, not to Regis, but to another, as yet uncapcped English player, Statham, described his 23-year-old wing as "the best player in the country." "The best player who should not be overlooked." Statham's contribution to a magnificent couple was certainly not limited to his goal-scoring, but almost every time Gillingham attack down his side.

**SCOTTISH CUP:** Second round: Coldstream 0, Meadowbank 2; Alloa 4, Hawick RA 1; Clyde 0, Berwick 0. Third round: Airdrie 1, Queen's Park

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**WESTERN LEAGUE:** Premier division. Bidford 1. Chippingham 0. Devon 1. Glendon 1. Drayton 0. Gloucester 0. Lymington 1. Maidstone 0.

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Only an incorrigible optimist would have expected Sunderland to beat Liverpool, the favourites, in the fourth round of the FA

[illegible]

In a sport where managers are hardly renowned for understatement, Ronnie Allen's post-match

assessment on Saturday on his part of the deal. Allen, who was the best player in the room, would normally have been taken care of by a wide receiver, but he was the only one who was in the position to make a play. Allen, who was the best player in the room, would normally have been taken care of by a wide receiver, but he was the only one who was in the position to make a play. Allen, who was the best player in the room, would normally have been taken care of by a wide receiver, but he was the only one who was in the position to make a play.

# Tennis

## Cliff-hanging is over with toppling of Dutch

By Rex Bellamy  
Tennis Correspondent

Britain's status in the first division of the world tennis championship, the European indoor team championship, is safe for another year. Thrilling and uncertain to the end, the tournament called off the Middle East yesterday when they won both their singles and doubles matches against the Netherlands.

Two days earlier, the world tennis championship was being played in Amsterdam. The advantage of playing the return match at home was countered by the fact that Britain could no longer rely on the services of the player called his name to Florida to see what he can do about his world ranking and his bank balance.

British tennis was to move up to first strike again, did not inspire such confidence because only six days earlier Lewis had returned from his series of outdoor matches in Australia. Lewis played against Sweden last Thursday but it remained to be seen if his adjustment to the European climate was adequate.

John Fawcett therefore shouldered a heavy responsibility when he was asked to play the first round match against the well-known Eric Wilkerson, aged 17, who had beaten him in an Amsterdam match. Wilkerson, one of those irritatingly fast players who can be in and out of the court in 10 seconds, when viewed across a net from 70 feet away—who play with a grace and speed that is almost and seem unaware how difficult the game is.

Fawcett was down 6-6, 6-6, 6-1 in an hour and 47 minutes, playing Britain almost exactly 30 minutes after leaving the first of two matches. Fawcett was tired and also rebounded from adversity when beating Peter Elzer (West Germany) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 yesterday but yesterday the adversity was much more acute. In retrospect, Fawcett was much more polished than he was yesterday. It was probably a good thing that whether British or the Netherlands would have to go into a play-off match with the Netherlands.

Fawcett began nervously. He was not hitting the ball well, since he was not used to the indoor court. He was not used to the indoor court and began to look awkward.

## Setback for Netherlands

By Lewine Mann

With each side having won 28 matches, the result of the junior international between British and Netherlands at Bisham Abbey, sponsored by the Seab, had to be decided on ties. Brindley's tally of 53 was two better than that of their opponents, who heard of their defeat just as their own side was leaving the C.T.A.'s new national training centre.

The visitors were unlucky. Not only did their No. 4 at boys 16 and under level have to give away his three matches after twisting an ankle, but towards the end of the week, when they were pressed about catching their boat home, their No. 1 girls at

## Golf

# Faldo qualifies and hopes that history is repeated

From John Bahannine, Phoenix, Jan. 24.

His name qualified here on the par-71 Phoenix Country Club course by a single stroke for the Phoenix Open for the second time. He has won an eight-hole putt on the last green for a second round 70. He was on 143, hoping that recent history of his would be repeated. American golf will repeat itself.

On his first American appearance 12 months ago, Baldo avoided a tie with the 192-hole winner by one stroke. He was the only one on to win a green and great popularity both by his professional play and his smiling personality. He was well on the quality of his play.

In Hawaii, he had people attending him after a record-breaking 12 lead in the 192-hole round and he finished 230, and in Los Angeles, winning \$1,000, and in Greensboro, winning \$10,000 before informed him he was in Florida and he returned home.

This season was the end of a Monday pre-qualifying. And so Baldo is determined to finish in the top 125 money winners who will be the 125th money winner.

## McNulty beats jitters

At Cape Town's Milnerton links he began his final round with a five stroke lead. By the time he turned, on 40, he had ordered away four shots and had Dennis Watson and Hugh Baiocchi pressing down his neck.

McNulty dropped another shot

## Badminton

[illegible]

### Table tennis

[illegible]



Cricket

# Ice, lightning and West Indies offer no comfort to Australia

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Melbourne, Jan 24

From Australia's point of view the weekend's cricket has been a disaster. In the first of three matches they were expected to win at least one of their two matches against West Indies in the finals of the Benson and Hedges World Series Cup, they were comprehensively beaten in both of them, where large crowds had been catered for, small ones turned up. The third match in the best-of-five series is in Sydney on Tuesday.

Australia lost yesterday's match by 76 runs and today's by 128 runs. Yesterday they put West Indies in the field for 50 overs in temperatures which rose to 111°. This was as long and torrid a session as any of them are ever likely to have, at the end of which they can hardly have felt much like batting.

On both days West Indies played more convincingly than for some time. They owed this to the fact that Greenidge and Richards were at their brilliant best, and Haynes, too, showed much improved form. Batting yesterday morning was not at all easy, yet after Haynes had been out in the ninth over Greenidge and Richards added 112 for the second wicket, a high-class piece of batting which left West Indies within comfortable reach of a match-winning total.

It is barely feasible to make 217 in two days — which is what Australia needed to do yesterday — let alone 236, their target today, with the ball sometimes flying about but more often keeping low on such a huge field and against the best of Indian bowling. On both days it was soon a question of whether Australia would reach 100. Yesterday Marsh saw to it that they did not, as he took the first wicket, and the twenty-fourth for 34 runs. Chappell was left before a shooter.

Today Haynes and Greenidge made 65 for the first wicket and Richards 85 for the second. When West Indies reached 200 for two in only the forty-second over, the Australians called for ice to revive them, a total of 280 was on the cards. Richards, however, had had enough by then and no one stopped successfully.

Australia's only hope was to be rescued by the rain that fell after all the rain that had fallen on the day. As the lightning flashed and the skies darkened it looked as though West Indies might be prevented from having 15 overs, the number required for the match to become a match. In a frantic effort to overtake the West Indian scoring rate of 4.72 runs an over Australian batsmen were thrown away. Chappell's among them. To squeeze in 15 overs, in case it rained, Roberts bowled off a short run after all that the storm passed by.

Yesterday's crowd was 24,981 and today's 25,000, which was forecast. Even two years ago, when the first of these one-day finals in Melbourne involved England and West Indies (Australia having been eliminated) the crowd was over 30,000. So where was everyone today? No doubt the heat put off many, but the expectation, were frightened away by



Haynes: showed greatly improved form

the prospect of being crowded out. Others may have feared a repetition of the disgusting behaviour of those who turned up in Sydney last week not to see the cricket but to urinate in their beer cans, some, maybe, have had enough one-day cricket.

In the city where the game is being played only the first two hours are shown on television, as an appetizer, rather than, as in some countries, the last two. After two hours this morning Australia were already heading for defeat.

Work is to start tomorrow morning on relaying the Melbourne Square, half of it will be done this year and half next, and it is not a day too soon. Although, in all the years that I have been writing cricket here, there have been some close and exciting matches, there has seldom in that time been a good cricket match.

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